Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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**OPINION METER**

This week's poll:

**Do you believe federalization will bring prosperity to the CNMI?**

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

**PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS**

**PHASE 6**

As of December 4, 2009

**Phase 6:** The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

*Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization*

## INSIDE

**Q&A**

Mga katanungan at sagot tungkol sa parole program ng U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

**MAHARLIKA...Page 12**

**New Crop**

Barbara Walters thinks this year's roster of fascinating people is a little edgier, more current and less obvious than usual.

**LIFE & STYLE...Page 20**

# New wastewater rates take effect

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Residential and commercial wastewater customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. began paying a higher rate beginning Tuesday, Dec. 1.

*See WASTEWATER on Page 4*

## Shell hikes prices by 10 cents—again

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A Shell Marianas price display shows the new pump prices of its regular and premium gasoline. Shell increased yesterday its gasoline prices by 10 cents a gallon, the seventh time this year that the oil company raised its pump prices.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Shell Marianas increased yesterday the pump price of its regular and premium unleaded gasoline by another 10 cents a gallon, marking the seventh time this year that the oil company raised its pump prices.

*See SHELL on Page 4*

Taijeron

## Taijeron resigns as deputy AG

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Four months since accepting his appointment, CNMI Deputy Attorney General Joseph L.G. Taijeron Jr. submitted his resignation yesterday to Attorney General Edward Buckingham.

"I wanted to spend more time with my family, do some fishing, and pursue some entrepreneurial opportunities that have recently arisen," Taijeron told *Saipan Tribune* when asked to comment on the reason for his resignation.

*See TAIJERON on Page 4*

## Feds reach out to community on US immigration

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

At least 100 employers and employees participated in the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' first training session on U.S. immigration and Form I-9 yesterday morning, with the audience raising questions mainly on parole and advance parole that allow nonresidents to re-enter the CNMI and then use their valid CNMI permit to

*See FEDS on Page 4*

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services district director David Gulick, left, stresses a point during a training session on U.S. immigration for employees and employers in the auditorium of the American Memorial Park yesterday morning, while USCIS Verification Division management and program analyst Cornelius Wyatt, seated center, and USCIS regional media manager Marie Thérèse Sebrechts, right, look on.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

'Overstayers who wish to go home will be aided' **PAGE 3**

Samoan tsunami wave was 46 feet high. **PAGE 5**

# Local

## 63 ex-garment workers to get repatriation tickets

Sixty-three former garment workers who want to go back to their countries will get their repatriation tickets from the Garment Workers Trust Fund, plus $100 each for incidental expenses.

This developed after U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson approved the trust fund's proposed disbursement of its funds.

In a written order issued yesterday, Munson said he approved the repatriation expenses, which include the cost of airfare and $100 in traveling funds for the 63 former garment workers who have asked for help to return to their home countries.

Munson said the trust fund may continue to fund the repatriation expenses of former garment workers until the court issues a final order for the distribution of the balance of the funds to charitable organizations.

Trust fund chair Timothy Bellas estimates the balance of the funds to be over $500,000.

Munson also approved the use of $723 to repatriate a former garment worker to the Philippines as well as $597 to repatriate another former garment worker to China.

Bellas said that, at the request of the Philippine Consulate Office, the trust fund was able to assist in the repatriation of a former garment worker who was diagnosed with breast cancer.

He said the trust fund gave $723 to the worker as she needed to return to her home country for medical evaluation and treatment.

The Garment Oversight Board established the trust fund. The board was set up pursuant to the $20-million settlement agreement in the class action against the garment industry. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

## Safe Haven Center for runaway youths eyed

**By MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The CNMI may soon have a safe place for its runaway and troubled youths if efforts by the 12th Youth Congress are recognized and supported by lawmakers.

Youth Congress speaker Alana May Leon Guerrero disclosed yesterday that a research study for a Safe Haven Center in the Commonwealth is in the offing.

"The CNMI lacks a center that will assist troubled or runaway youth. It is vitally important as it will provide a safe and healthy living environment or shelter for those in need," Leon Guerrero said.

Once built, the shelter will also provide assistance to school and independent living programs, she said.

Leon Guerrero said the CNMI safe haven project will be patterned after the Sanctuary Inc. in Guam.

"Hopefully, we can soon finish our research work on this," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Besides this priority undertaking, Leon Guerrero said her leadership will focus on stricter enforcement of laws, especially on environment and health issues, curfew, tobacco and alcohol laws.

During Leon Guerrero's first term as speaker, four bills and a number of resolutions were adopted by the Youth Congress.

This year, she vowed to initiate more community programs and events targeting the youth.

"We hope to get involved more with youth community events and establish more youth events just to give them something they can participate in and get involved with," she said.

They also aim to address issues concerning health, education, and safety.

Leon Guerrero also disclosed the revival of the SAT (standard assessment test) preparatory seminar, which was initiated during the 7th Youth Congress.

"We hope to start it up again. As youths prepare for their future, we'd like to assist them with this," she said.

The Teens in Motion, she added, will continue to voice the concerns of teenagers.

The Youth Congress is composed of 25 members.

# 'Labor will assist overstayers who want to claim repatriation tickets'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Labor will help overstaying alien workers who want to claim their repatriation tickets and voluntarily return to their countries, according to acting Labor Secretary Cinta Kaipat.

"Anyone who entered the Commonwealth as a 240K foreign worker is entitled to claim a repatriation ticket from his or her last employer of record," Kaipat told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

She explained that a voluntary return means that the overstayer has a chance of re-entering the United States at some future time.

Kaipat also emphasized that deporting overstayers is now a federal function when the federalization law took effect on Nov. 28.

She said the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement will deal with all deportations, according to federal laws and regulations.

"A deportation means that the overstayer will never be allowed to enter the United States in the future," Kaipat added.

Attorney General Edward Buckingham recently issued a public notice granting conditional "umbrella permits" to 628 aliens who have been classified as overstayers.

Buckingham later backed off from this position when Kaipat objected, saying Labor was not consulted with the granting of conditional "umbrella permits" to overstayers.

Buckingham and Kaipat later issued a joint statement, saying that the Office of the Attorney General and Labor would not issue "umbrella permits" to overstayers as such is not an amnesty program.

Kaipat clarified that Labor never issued any "conditional umbrella permits" and that no "umbrella permits" were issued after the Nov. 27, 2009, deadline.

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Census 2010
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
JOB FAIR

**Dates, Times and Locations to complete an application and be tested are as follows:**

**Saturday, December 5th from 11:00am – 4:00pm**
**at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe**

**Monday, December 7th from 5:00pm – 8:00pm**
**at Saipan Southern High School Cafeteria in Koblerville**

**Wednesday, December 9th from 5:00pm – 8:00pm**
**at Cha Cha Oceanview Junior High School Cafeteria in Kagman**

**Thursday, December 10th from 5:00pm – 8:00pm**
**at Tanapag Elementary School Cafeteria in Tanapag**

Testing will take 30-45 minutes and will be offered every half hour for applicants with a completed application. Please bring a picture ID in order to complete the testing on the day of the Job Fair. Practice tests are available on the 2010 Census Website at ***http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs/pdf/Practice_Test.pdf.***

A police clearance is not needed to apply and will be completed prior to employment if selected, along with a mandatory drug screening. Both the police clearance and the drug screening costs will be reimbursed after hire. Other US Census employment requirements are as follows:

- **Must be at least 18 years old and a high school graduate or have a GED. Some people, however, may be hired at age 16 if they meet conditions of employment set by local laws and are high school graduates.**
- **Be a U.S. citizen (However, if not a U.S. citizen, an applicant may be considered if qualified workers are still needed as translators or enumerators with special language skills)**
- **Have a social security number before being appointed.**
- **Must submit to the FBI fingerprint screening.**
- **Pass a written test of basic skills**
- **Have a valid driver's license (for most field jobs)**

Applications can be picked up at the Local Census Office or at OPM and completed in advance of the Job Fair. Please bring the completed application to the Job Fair.

All information about job opportunities is posted on 2010 CNMI Census tab on the CNMI Department of Commerce website at http://www.commerce.gov.mp . Further information is also available by calling the Local Census Office at 288-3027/23.

Local Census Office hours are Monday – Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm and the office is located on International Terminal Loop next to the Saipan International Airport. For more information please call the Local Census Office at 288-3027/23.

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# Judge grants request for new sentencing date

The federal court granted yesterday the request of convicted former estate administrator Luis Kaipat Pelisamen to postpone his sentencing again.

The sentencing was supposed to be held yesterday, but U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson set the new sentencing date on Jan. 15, 2010, at 9am.

The U.S. government did not object to Pelisamen's request for a new sentencing date.

Munson also granted Pelisamen's motion to seal his declaration to support the motion for postponement of the sentencing.

Pelisamen's lawyer, Douglas Cushnie, said his client has not been able to participate in preparations for his sentencing due to recurring medical conditions. Cushnie said the medical conditions required Pelisamen's referral to Guam for diagnosis and treatment. He did not specify the medical condition.

The first date of sentencing was Sept. 29, 2009, then moved to Nov. 18, 2009, then Nov. 30, 2009.

At Pelisamen's request, the sentencing was delayed again and set for yesterday. The defendant asked the court to postpone the Nov. 30 sentencing because he was then in Guam for possible kidney surgery.

Pelisamen used to serve as administrator of the estate of Rita Kaipat. The estate received $1.37 million for distribution. The U.S. government charged Pelisamen with unlawful use of estate funds.

On June 22, 2009, a federal jury found Pelisamen guilty of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and two counts of money laundering.

Pelisamen asked for a new trial, which was denied. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

## FEDS

*From Page 1*

continue work or residency on the islands.

"They [USCIS] are doing good holding this kind of training. It's good to hear things directly from them. I think that employers and employees should take advantage of these free training sessions," said IBPC president Herman Sablan.

Sablan said he attended the first training session as an employer to clarify, among other things, whether his Filipino employees traveling to the Philippines can go through Guam instead of Korea or Japan.

"They said yes, the workers can apply for parole," said Sablan.

Some employees and employers were turned away after all seats at the 110-seater auditorium of the American Memorial Park's Visitor Center were filled in the morning, said AMP volunteer Susan Fishman-Tudor.

When all the seats are taken, nobody else is allowed inside the auditorium.

"They should come in early to get seats," she said, adding that the only things allowed into the auditorium are pens and notepads.

Those who want to attend the next rounds of USCIS immigration training on Saipan are advised not to bring bags, cellular phones, cameras and drinks inside the AMP auditorium.

Another 100 or so employers and employees were expected to show up at the second round of training at 5pm yesterday.

Five other training sessions in the AMP auditorium are scheduled between today and Monday.

The eight training sessions on Tinian and Rota are set for Dec. 8 to 12.

David Gulick, USCIS district director, emphasized that although there are general policies on granting parole or advance parole, applications will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

USCIS emphasized the need to make an online appointment at www.infopass.uscis.gov, to visit the USCIS Application Support Center located at the TSL Plaza Building in Garapan, and for people to be able to speak to an immigration officer for their specific concerns.

People are also encouraged to visit the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov for more information on the U.S. immigration law and regulations.

Meriam Cabading, accountant at TransAmerica Corp., said she had attended similar presentations by USCIS but the one held in the AMP auditorium yesterday was a lot better because of the PowerPoint presentation, and mainly because it addressed the issue of Form I-9, which is required for all employees hired on and after Nov. 28, 2009.

"It's good they pointed out that applications for parole and advance parole will be entertained on a case-by-case basis. As they said, what may be applicable for one particular case may not be okay for another one," said Cabading, who is also in charge of personnel matters at her company.

Jerry Hibi, sales supervisor at TransAmerica Corp., said there was initial confusion between parole and advance parole.

"From what I understand, if you are a nonresident, you can apply for parole to travel only within the U.S., for example, only from Saipan to Guam or the U.S. mainland and back. Advance parole is needed for you to come back to the CNMI if you went outside the U.S. like the Philippines," he said.

Lisa Avendano, general manager at MGA Business, a document handling company, said she learned more about advance parole, particularly the possibility of applying for it on behalf of somebody who is already out of the CNMI.

"But I just need clarification [on] how long that will take," she said.

Over a dozen officials from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and its component agencies have descended on Saipan in days leading up to the federalization of CNMI immigration on Nov. 28.

Their main focus is to reach out to as many community members as possible to educate them about U.S. immigration law and regulations. These officials are in addition to those who will be stationed here for months.

In yesterday's training session, Cornelius Wyatt and Dave Basham, both management and program analysts at the USCIS Verification Division, explained the need to completely fill up and submit Form I-9.

They also distributed copies of Form I-9 to the audience and went through each portion of the form.

Early this week, USCIS announced that it will grant parole status—on a case-by-case basis—to four groups of individuals in the Northern Marianas.

These include CNMI permanent residents, immediate relatives of CNMI permanent residents, spouses and children of deceased CNMI permanent residents, and immediate relatives of citizens of Freely Associated States.

FAS citizens are those from Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia (Yap, Chuuk, Kosrae and Pohnpei).

A parole status granted to these impacted groups will be valid for two years, and may be renewed depending on the individual's continued eligibility.

Nonresidents who need to exit the CNMI for emergency reason and then come back to continue working using their valid CNMI permit, can apply for parole at the USCIS office on Saipan.

Those who need to travel outside the CNMI for non-emergency reason, including for vacation and training, need to apply for advance parole, which costs $305.

## SHELL

*From Page 1*

Mobil Oil Marianas had yet to implement any price change as of late yesterday afternoon, although the two oil giants usually mirror each other's price changes.

A survey of Shell service stations showed that the price change took effect either at the stroke of midnight yesterday or at 6am or so, even as oil prices in the U.S. fell Thursday.

Because of the 10-cent price increase, regular self-serve gasoline at Shell service stations is now $3.579 a gallon.

Shell's premium self-serve gasoline now retails at $3.899 a gallon.

The pump price of diesel at Shell stations did not change. It remains at $3.649 a gallon, service stations surveyed said.

The last time Shell increased its pump prices was on Oct. 28. A day prior to that, Mobil raised its prices also by 10 cents a gallon. Both Shell and Mobil have not been giving advance public notice of any changes in their pump prices. They are, however, prompt in changing the price displays at their service stations.

The seven rounds of Shell price increases this year mean that Saipan motorists had been paying 85 cents more a gallon since February, the first time the prices changed in 2009.

Ample supply drove crude oil prices below $77 a barrel, with more evidence that the country is using less energy while oil and gasoline supplies continue to grow, national reports said. Demand for gasoline slumped during the Thanksgiving week, when millions of people took to the road and gas sales usually jump.

On Wednesday, the Energy Information Administration reported a 2.1 million barrel buildup in crude inventories to 339.9 million barrels last week, well off the 1.3 million barrel draw down expected.

# Renewal of zoning permits at over 2K

**By MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Despite the sluggish economy, many businesses are opting to stick it out rather than close up shop, as shown by the consistent number of applicants being processed by the Commonwealth Zoning Board.

Zoning administrator Victor Barrett told *Saipan Tribune* that they continue to accommodate and process the same number of clients since almost two years ago.

Barrett said that over 2,000 businesses—large and small—continue to transact with the agency.

"We have over 2,000 permits in the last one and a half year…and we're dealing with almost the same numbers at present," Barrett said. "And we're seeing a lot of renewals."

The agency works in collaboration with the Department of Finance, which records business licenses.

Barrett explained that once a business is established, the owner is required to acquire permits for their building from the zoning agency.

Although not everyone supports the rezoning of certain areas, Barrett said the agency has no record of business owners trying to influence or bribe them.

The agency has posted several notices on its doors, warning people against bribery.

Barrett said the agency will continue to conduct public hearings on rezoning despite the very low turnout they get at such hearings.

## TAIJERON

*From Page 1*

Taijeron said he turned in his resignation letter at about 1:30pm yesterday, and his resignation was also effective yesterday.

After serving the Legislative Bureau for the past 10 months, he rejoined the Office of the Attorney General on Aug. 31, becoming the second longest serving attorney in the OAG after Chief Prosecutor Kevin Lynch, with AG Ed Buckingham following as the third longest serving attorney in the OAG.

Taijeron previously served the OAG from April 2002 through November 2008.

Buckingham, in a statement, said he received Taijeron's resignation "with regret."

"Joe Taijeron was and is my friend. When I was asked by the governor to serve as attorney general, I requested that Joe leave the Legislature to join me. I appreciate and respect that he did so quickly and gave his best efforts to this office. We are substantially stronger today than when Joe rejoined the office," the attorney general said.

Buckingham said the position of deputy attorney general will be vacant for the immediate future.

"We will manage as best as possible. The position of deputy is a critical one and selection needs to proceed thoughtfully."

Taijeron thanked Buckingham for the chance to serve as his deputy.

"I learned a great deal about management from him. I wish the Office of Attorney General, especially the staff, all the best. I will miss them the most. To the attorneys, I hope that they work with the AG to protect the Commonwealth's best interests. I know how hard they work and how little credit they all receive," he added.

Taijeron received a bachelor's degree in government and international studies from the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, where he graduated with honors. He graduated from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, California, on a full academic scholarship.

## WASTEWATER

*From Page 1*

Wastewater rates—both metered and estimated—were increased following an order by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Corp. adopted on Nov. 20.

Under the new rate schedule, residential customers now pay $1.37 for every 1,000 gallons of wastewater produced—a 174-percent increase over the old rate of just 50 cents.

Those producing 6,000 gallons of wastewater monthly will now pay a minimum of $8.20 per 1,000 gallons, a 173-percent increase over the old rate of $3.

CUC enforced the same rate structure for non-residential or commercial clients, which are $1.37 for a volume rate of per 1,000 gallons and $8.20 for those with up to 6,000 gallons of monthly production.

In the commission's order, government agencies will be billed the same rate of $30 for every 1,000 gallons.

Overall, the increases translate to 87 cents for those producing 1,000 gallons of wastewater and an additional $5.20 charge for those producing up to 6,000 gallons.

The new rate is part of the series of rate hikes recommended and enforced for CUC's water and wastewater programs.

CUC first increased its wastewater rates in June 2009 to cover 30 percent of its anticipated wastewater revenue deficiency, followed by another increase in September, again to offset an additional 30 percent of anticipated wastewater revenue deficiency.

The latest increase is intended to cover the remaining 40 percent revenue shortfall in the wastewater division's operations.

CUC described the old rates as 40 percent below cost for both water and wastewater.

The agency's water and wastewater divisions reported a $3.6 million deficit in Fiscal Year 2008 when it spent $9.9 million against its collection of just $6.3 million.

The water and wastewater divisions are also required to comply with the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act, as mandated in two stipulated orders.

CUC has already accrued $630,000 in penalties for violating provisions of the stipulated orders in the last six months. Additional fines are expected in the event of noncompliance with the orders.

CUC's sewer rates were first set in 1987, while its water rate was set in 1995.

# Samoan tsunami wave was 46 feet high

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** (AP)—The tsunami that killed more than 200 people in the Samoan islands and Tonga earlier this year towered up to 46 feet (14 meters) high - more then twice as tall as most of the buildings it slammed into, scientists said Friday.

New Zealand scientists studying the size, power and reach of the tsunami as part of efforts to guard against future disasters said they found up to three destructive waves were caused by the magnitude 8.0 undersea earthquake in September.

The massive waves that struck Samoa, American Samoa and Tonga totally destroyed traditional wooden buildings, many of them singly story, along the coast while reinforced concrete buildings sustained only minor damage, said Stefan Reese, a risk engineer with New Zealand's National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research.

The waves were up to 46 feet (14 meters) high, Reese told The Associated Press. The scientists measured watermarks on buildings and trees to help confirm the height of the waves.

"In some areas there was virtually nothing left" after the waves reached up to 765 yards (700 meters) inland, Reese said.

Wide reefs saved some villages by helping to reduce the waves' height to about 10 feet (3 meters), Reese said.

The Samoan quake created a sea floor fault up to 190 miles (300 kilometers) long and 23 feet (7 meters) deep.

The Sept. 29 tsunami killed 34 people in American Samoa, 183 in Samoa and nine in Tonga.

**INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK** NMC

Flags of the world's nations line up behind Tony Goodbaad of the Northern Marianas College's Archives Department as he takes NMC students on a tour of the department. The tour was part of the college's International Education Week, in which students exhibit their cultures and learn about different cultures around the world. The visit to the Archives Department allowed students learn about the local culture and history of the CNMI.

# Marshalls take emergency measures to tackle drug-resistant tuberculosis

**MAJURO** (AFP)—The government of the Marshalls Islands is taking emergency measures to tackle an outbreak of drug-resistant tuberculosis in the western Pacific nation, officials said Thursday.

Only six cases of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) have so far been confirmed in the tiny nation of around 55,000 people but there are fears it will spread further.

The cabinet Wednesday authorized 1.9 million US dollars in emergency funding to beef up the Ministry of Health's prevention program for tuberculosis, an infectious disease which killed more than 1.7 million people in 2007, according to World Health Organisation figures.

The cabinet also approved regulations banning known patients with regular tuberculosis and MDR-TB and their contacts from travelling outside the Marshall Islands without the approval of the director of public health.

Majuro Hospital administrator Marie Lanwi-Paul said Thursday the ministry was urgently stepping up screening and treatment of tuberculosis.

The large number of people who have had contact with MDR-TB patients would need to be identified and treated with preventive drugs for about nine months, Lanwi-Paul said.

Health officials in the second major urban centre of Ebeye have identified up to 200 possible contacts of the four patients diagnosed with MDR-TB, and are screening them for the disease.

MDR-TB cases are increasing throughout the Pacific islands, said an official at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) in Noumea.

Cases have been also been reported in the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Kiribati, Samoa and Papua New Guinea, said Janet O'Connor of the SPC's tuberculosis division.

While normal tuberculosis can be cured within six months, MDR-TB requires extensive treatment for up to two years with a combination of drugs, which have more side effects.

MDR-TB develops when tuberculosis patients stop taking medication and the disease gains immunity to regular drugs used to treat the disease worldwide.

Lanwi-Paul said individual cases of MDR-TB cost nearly 200,000 dollars to successfully treat.

# Briefing for veterans, dependents

This is to inform all veterans and others concerned that on Dec. 14-18, 2009, Tina San Augustine, the Department of Veterans Affairs' public contact and outreach specialist for Guam and the CNMI, will be on Saipan for a veterans outreach on veterans federal benefits.

In addition, David Sheridan, vocational rehabilitation counselor, and Gaylene Matsunaga, home loan technician, also from the federal VA, will be on Saipan on Dec. 15 and 16 to discuss veterans' needs on the VA home loan and vocational rehabilitation. They will also be entertaining questions and assist veterans with their claims.

The date, time and place of the briefing is as follows:

■ Rota: Dec. 17-18, 2009, from 8am to 4pm, at the Rota Mayor's Office conference room

■ Saipan: Dec. 15-16, 2009, from 8am to 4pm, at the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs on Capital Hill, Building 1364.

■ Dec. 15-16, 2009 only, Home loans and vocational rehabilitation

■ Tinian: Dec. 14, 2009, from 9am to 4pm, at the Tinian Mayor's Office

Any questions or for further information, call Ruth Coleman at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs at 664-2650. ***(PR)***

# Navy, Air Force to hold live-fire, laser training exercises on FDM

The U.S. Navy and Air Force will conduct live-fire and laser training exercises on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

■ 7am of Dec. 8 to 7pm of Dec. 9

■ 7am to 3pm of Dec. 10

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Medinilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. The public—especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from this area during these times and dates.

Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(PR)***


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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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## EDITORIAL

# Obama's big bet

Even as President Obama announced an escalation of the war in Afghanistan, he focused on plans for getting out. At the same time that he ordered an additional 30,000 U.S. soldiers and Marines to the front, he said he would start bringing them home in July 2011. And while assuring neighboring Pakistan of America's long-term commitment to South Asia, he also sought to reassure Americans that there are limits to U.S. military involvement in the region.

We appreciate the president's rhetorical prowess. Tuesday's speech was clear and cogent. Yet we can't help but wonder if he will be able to keep so many seemingly contradictory promises made to so many different audiences. We understand that Obama inherited a neglected war and was presented with an array of bad choices, and we certainly hope he is making the right decision to double down in Afghanistan. But frankly, we have grave misgivings about the cost and likelihood of success.

To his credit, Obama offered clear answers to questions the country has long been asking: The goal in Afghanistan, he said, is to deny al-Qaida a haven, reverse the Taliban's momentum and prevent it from overthrowing the national government. The strategy is to deploy troops to target the insurgency and protect cities while building up the Afghan military and government—"nation-building," without the scary name, in a country that has studiously resisted previous attempts by outsiders to forge a central state. The cost will be an additional $30 billion next year, and more after that. The end game: "to hasten the day when our troops will leave."

Obama argued that to leave Afghanistan now would be to relinquish it to al-Qaida and its allies, and that to maintain current troop levels would be to "muddle through" while allowing the Taliban to continue gaining ground. He also said the open-ended escalation advocated by conservatives would cost too much and go beyond what we need to secure our national interests. On that point, he is certainly right.

The president wrapped his decision-making in the loftiest of American values, citing America's historic "special burden in global affairs" and arguing that the U.S. sends its troops abroad to fight oppression and liberate people rather than to dominate them. But that distinction may well be lost on Afghans witnessing yet another wave of foreign soldiers streaming into their country.

"Right makes might," Obama said, and we sincerely hope he's correct. He also said—and this part seems indisputable—that "none of this will be easy." We believe him when says he is committed to protecting American security. It's the means that worry us. The last thing we want is to find ourselves several years from now leaving an Afghanistan just as troubled as it is today, with little to show for our dead and our dollars.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

# Friendly? Hooked on status updates

**By STEPHEN RANDALL**
*Special to the* Los Angeles Times

*Randall is the deputy editor of* Playboy.

I'm not so sure I like my friends anymore.

I used to like them—honest. We'd have lunch, talk on the phone or exchange e-mails, and they all seemed normal enough. But then came Facebook, and I was introduced to a sad fact: Many of my friends have dark sides that they had kept from me. Sure, there were times these dark sides would surface—after too many drinks, say—but apologies and denials would follow, and all seemed healthy ... or at least acceptable.

Today my friends trumpet the more unpleasant aspects of their personalities via Facebook status updates. No longer hidden or disavowed, they're thrown in my face like infomercials on late-night TV—unavoidable and endless advertisements for the worst aspects of their personalities.

Take Fred. If you were to have lunch with him, you'd find him warm, down-to-earth and self-effacing. Read his status updates and you realize he's an insufferable, food-obsessed bore. He'd pause on his way to save a drowning man to sip a cup of volcanic coffee—and then write about it. (Fred's not his real name, of course. None of these names is real. It's bad enough I dislike my friends. I don't want them to dislike me too.)

Take Andy. You won't find a smarter CEO anywhere, but in tough economic times, he's a CEO without a company to run. So he plays Mafia Wars on Facebook. He's doing well—level 731, whatever that means. And thanks to Facebook and his status updates, I know he's playing about 18 hours a day. Andy, you've run four companies—and this is how you spend your downtime? What happened to golf? What happened to getting another job?

And then there's Arty. He's smart, he's funny, he's competent. On Facebook, however, he's a teenager, constantly threatening to drive drunk or blow stuff up with fireworks. He also suffers from self-induced stomach ailments. He posts pictures of a huge and dangerous meal, predicts the worst and then documents the fallout in a follow-up post. The acronym TMI was invented for Arty's gastric-distress updates.

Liz is positive the H1N1 vaccine will kill us all and that we should avoid it. Chris likes to post at least 20 times a day on every site he can find, so I get to read his thoughts twice, once on Facebook and once on Twitter. Ed can't go to bed at night without letting us all know what he's accomplished that day—which is usually the same thing he accomplished the day before and will accomplish the next day.

In real life, I don't see these sides of people. Face to face, my friends edit themselves, showing me their best. They're nice, smart people, and there's a give-and-take to normal conversations. They don't talk incessantly about their work. They don't point fingers with Glenn Beck bluster or sound like crazy callers on talk radio.

But face to Facebook, my friends are like a blind date gone horribly wrong, one in which you sit there listening while the person on the other side of the table blathers on, pretty much forgetting you exist and not always making the best impression.

And yet I'm hooked on Facebook. I sign on several times a day. Facebook is like hearing your neighbors bicker through a thin apartment wall or watching characters on reality TV self-destruct. The voyeuristic appeal is addicting. I don't want to know the dumb side of my friends, just like I don't really care about Jon and Kate Gosselin's marital problems. But I can't get any of it out of my life.

Sometimes, my friends aren't stupid, they're just boring, keeping all of us abreast of the minutiae of their day. "I'm tired," they'll write. That's it. That's the whole update. (Hmm, maybe more sleep and less Mafia Wars, I think, but I keep my hands off the keyboard.) And they egg each other on. "I have a headache," someone will write. "Why don't you take some Motrin?" suggests a commenter. (Sounds like a good idea to me; maybe I should second it.) Interior thoughts become exterior on a regular basis. "Today I'm glad to be alive," someone will post, even though they rarely talk like that. Then others chime in: "Me, too." Often, all is well in the land of Facebook. Mundane but well.

I've yet to post a status update myself, or comment on anyone else's. Is there any reason to think I'd come off as any smarter? Any less self-absorbed? Any less boring? It's not so much that I censor myself when I talk to my friends, but I generally make a conscious effort not to alienate them.

Still, I'm left with a dilemma. Who is my real friend? Is it the Liz I have lunch with ... or the anti-vaccine lunatic on Facebook? Is it the guy who understands business better than anyone I know ... or the case of arrested development who repelled the Yakuza in Mafia Wars? Is it the Fred I can grab a sandwich with ... or the Fred who weeps if he's at a party and the wine isn't up to his standards?

I know too much about them. And what do they think of me? The guy who lurks online, afraid to reveal the simplest fact about himself while judging others and making fun of their comments? I probably don't seem like much of a prize either.

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# Concluding postscript 6: Image maker

*Editor's Note: Jaime Vergara has been a regular contributor to the Opinion page of the* Saipan Tribune *and this week's series will be his last this year.*

**By JAIME VERGARA**
*Special to the* Saipan Tribune

I tell my story, which is also that of every person born, of the marvelous genesis that we are either never told, or have conveniently forgotten. First, an ovum sits by its lonesome while a gazillion tadpoles careen into the race of their lives to get to the ovum first, and to be chosen to fertilize it. Nothing controversial about this scene. It is depicted in the opening credits of the John Tavolta movie, Look Who's Talking. It's conception time.

Two things happen. Sperms get to Eva while she chooses which of the Adams she allows into her pink shield. What tentacles of sensibility guide the choice is a matter of conjecture. There are, at least, 200 million choices; not making a choice, which happens, is also a choice! Then another ovum goes through the same ritual 28 days later, and another set of 200 million squigglies race through the track. Sometimes, one makes it through. When that happens, a choice inexplicably is made. That's how I came to be.

From the perspective of the chosen, conception is about making it to the victory circle, or more accurately, being embraced by it! A sperm wins the biggest lottery of its life. Consider the odds. Conservatively, at two track races per lunar cycle, multiplied by 10 ovulations, do the math and you get a staggering figure. At the onset of the creation process is a choice freely made; it is also a winning against a gazillion odds.

The second marvelous event occurs within a span of nine months. Two cells in synergy and symbiosis build one of the wonders of the universe, a human organism. The cells duplicate and multiply at a frenzied speed guided by an invisible code embedded in genes. When the organism ripens, it will have a musculoskeletal framework wrapped in a web of neural covering encasing a complex system of digestive, respiratory, circulatory, and nerve functions, plus a myriad of physiological and electrical processes.

So at conception, we not only know how and when to choose but also are victors; and at birthing, we complete the creation of a sophisticated organism, the workings and the likes of which are beyond anyone's ken. Free, winsome, and creative is our birth right; how is it that we grow up to become slaves, losers, and shriveling pieces of marinaded meat before we can say "Boo"?

When did we forget our original essence? The recent massacre in Mindanao had this message from a group: "We remember the tragedy of November 23, 2009, in Mindanao as the time when we have forgotten what it means to be human… the fear that such monstrosity actually exists in our land and by our own people, grips us… what is very infuriating is how those who have the power of the rule of law fell silent... the cries of the victims have fallen on deaf ears… we stand angry because those who have 'sworn to serve and protect' are stained with the very blood of these senseless deaths." Heavy. Heady. And quite to the point! Condemnation is not enough, it said. Our silence during the candlelight vigil after the Kannat Tabla-Marpi shooting attests to similar sentiments. Nothing short of reinventing what it means to be human is the call of our time!

> *The purpose of knowing what we know is to inform our doing.* I *take the raw data of experience, the regurgitated feelings, the spectrum of meanings, and out of the swirl, make choices that translate into deeds. That is Decisional Me.*

My pedagogical assumptions go like this: We operate out of images. Images determine our behavior. Images can change. We change image, we change behavior. Any image designer, e.g., PSS and the Tribune, is tasked to learn and teach the ongoing process of the reinvention of the human. We've only been at it for 10,000 years; we are told that only 10 percent of our brain cells are used at the Einstein level. But current practices of teaching and so-called objective journalism are eunuchs devoid of vitality. Ten percent of life happens to us; the other 90 percent is how we happen to life. We stand present to what happens to us, but we refuse to plumb the depths of how we happen to life. We still cling to conflict and it is the only recourse to differences!

We are hammering epistemology here: how people know, and how they know what they know. OK, we shan't be too abstract. Let's take each of us. I/We who know the give and take of the five senses. This traffic creates a world of images, sounds, smells, textures, and tastes. We'll call that the Objective Me.

I receive and respond to those sense stimuli, develop a data bank of preferences. I make choices of likes and dislikes, distinguish between pleasantness and irritation. Emotions are formed. The next time I feel the heat of fire, I withdraw rather than be attracted to its glow. A reference informs my preference. This is Reflective Me.

Then I take my feelings and compare them to those of others, ascribe meaning to the events of my life, and align them to the significance attributed by others to similar events. I make comparisons, analyze choices and make a judgment, a valence of what is clear, what is important, and what is valuable. That is Interpretive Me.

The purpose of knowing what we know is to inform our doing. I take the raw data of experience, the regurgitated feelings, the spectrum of meanings, and out of the swirl, make choices that translate into deeds. That is Decisional Me.

Alas, for most of us, we are not taught to reflect on our experiences, nor do we learn to own up to our feelings and thoughts, save as we can recall and repeat back what we were trained to say and think to be socially acceptable or be politically correct, and definitely we do not act unless it is in conformity to comfortable norms and not a deviation from prescribed standards. To reinvent the human, we must learn again, individually and communally.

Now, would it not be nice if we taught humans to engage in legislative and other discourses, cognizant of these levels? My e-mail is jrvergarajr2031@gmail.com, and I share it here to point to the year 2031. In my covenant with life, that year is when I will cease being aware and awake that I was born free and a victor, and till then, to act like one! I also take it as my vocational responsibility and professional career to continue being an image maker, so that others will not forget that they are born essentially the same. Mabuhay!

# En route to the sixth extinction

**By JEFF CORWIN**
*Special to the* Los Angeles Times

*Corwin is the author of* 100 Heartbeats*," a book about the sixth extinction.*

There is a holocaust happening. Right now. And it's not confined to one nation or even one region. It is a global crisis.

Species are going extinct en masse.

Every 20 minutes, we lose an animal species. If this rate continues, by century's end, 50 percent of all living species will be gone. It is a phenomenon known as "the sixth extinction."

The fifth extinction took place 65 million years ago when a meteor smashed into the Earth, killing off the dinosaurs and many other species and opening the door for the rise of mammals. Currently, the sixth extinction is on track to dwarf the fifth.

What—or more correctly—who is to blame this time? As Pogo said, "We have met the enemy, and he is us."

The causes of this mass die-off are many: overpopulation, loss of habitat, global warming, species exploitation (the black market for rare animal parts is the third-largest illegal trade in the world, outranked only by weapons and drugs). The list goes on, but it all points to us.

Over the last 15 years, in the course of producing television documentaries and writing about wildlife, I have traveled the globe and I have witnessed the grim carnage firsthand. I've observed the same story playing out in different locales.

In South Africa off the coast of Cape Horn, lives one of the most feared predators of all—the great white shark. Yet this awesome creature is powerless before the mindless killing spree that is decimating its species at the jaw-dropping rate of 100 million sharks a year. Many are captured so that their dorsal fins can be chopped off (for shark fin soup). Then, still alive, they are dropped back into the sea, where they die a slow and painful death.

Further east, in Indonesia, I witnessed the mass destruction of rain forests to make way for palm oil plantations. Indonesia is now the world's leading producer of palm oil—a product used in many packaged foods and cosmetic goods—and the victims are the Sumatran elephant and orangutan. These beautiful creatures are on the brink of extinction as their habitats go up in smoke, further warming our planet in the process.

One day while swimming off the coast of Indonesia, I came across a river of refuse and raw sewage stretching for miles. These streams and islands of refuse now populate all our oceans; in the middle of the Pacific, there is an island of garbage the size of Texas. This floating pollution serves to choke off and kill sea turtles—driving them closer to extinction.

At the same time, the coral reefs where sea turtles get their food supply are dying due to rising sea temperatures from global warming. To top it off, sea turtles are hunted and killed for their meat—considered a delicacy in many Asian countries. It is an ugly but altogether effective one-two-three punch for this unique species.

It's important to understand that this is not just a race to save a handful of charismatic species—animals to which we attach human-inspired values or characteristics. Who wouldn't want to save the sea otter, polar bear, giant panda or gorilla? These striking mammals tug at our heartstrings and often our charitable purse strings. But our actions need to be just as swift and determined when it comes to the valley elderberry longhorn beetle or the pebbly-skinned Puerto Rican crested toad or the black-footed ferret, whose fate is inextricably intertwined with that of the prairie dog.

The reality is that each species, no matter how big, small, friendly or vicious, plays an important and essential role in its ecosystem. And we're in a race to preserve as much of the animal kingdom as possible.

Meanwhile, around the planet there are massive die-offs of amphibians—the canaries in our global coal mine. When frogs and other amphibians, which have existed for hundreds of millions of years, start to vanish, it is a sign that our natural world is in a state of peril. Bat and bee populations are also being decimated. Without bees, there will be no pollination, and without pollination, the predator that is decimating these other species—humankind—will also be headed toward its own extinction.

Yes, there is a certain irony there.

This was all brought home to me in an intimate way after a recent trip to Panama. My young daughter, Maya, asked if she could accompany me on my next trip there so that she could see one of her favorite animals—the Panamanian golden frog—up close and personal in the jungle. Sadly, I had to tell her no. This small, beautiful frog—the national symbol of Panama—no longer exists in the wild. Only a few live in captivity.

Is there hope? Yes. Because in every place I visited to witness the sixth extinction unfold, I met brave and selfless conservationists, biologists and wildlife scientists working hard to save species.

In Panama, biologist Edgardo Griffith has set up an amphibian rescue center to protect and quarantine rare frogs (including the Panamanian golden frog) before they are all wiped out by the deadly fungus Chytrid, which is rapidly killing off frogs on a global scale.

In Africa, zoologist Iain Douglas Hamilton is one of many seeking to stop the illegal trade in elephant ivory and rhino horns. In Namibia, zoologist Laurie Marker is making strides to save the cheetah before it goes the way of the saber tooth tiger (or India's Bengal tiger, which is also on the precipice of extinction).

In Indonesia, Ian Singleton is raising orphaned orangutans, training them to return to the remaining rain forest—giving them a second chance at living in the wild. In South Africa, Alison Kock is leading a crusade to educate the world about the wholesale destruction of sharks.

Here in the United States, Chris Lucash of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working to reintroduce the red wolf, now found only in captivity, to the woods of North Carolina.

They are just a few of the many who are trying to reverse the species holocaust that threatens the future of our natural world.

These committed scientists bring great generosity and devotion to their respective efforts to stop the sixth extinction. But if we don't all rise to the cause and join them in action, they cannot succeed.

The hour is near, but it's not too late.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲86° ▼77° | ▲87° ▼77° | ▲87° ▼78° | ▲87° ▼78° | ▲86° ▼78° |

## Micronesia

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Partly Cloudy | ▲83 | ▼77 |
| Palau | Mostly Cloudy | ▲86 | ▼75 |
| Yap | Cloudy | ▲88 | ▼77 |
| Chuuk | Partly Cloudy | ▲86 | ▼76 |
| Pohnpei | Cloudy | ▲82 | ▼77 |
| Kosrae | Cloudy | ▲86 | ▼78 |
| Majuro | Mostly Cloudy | ▲80 | ▼75 |

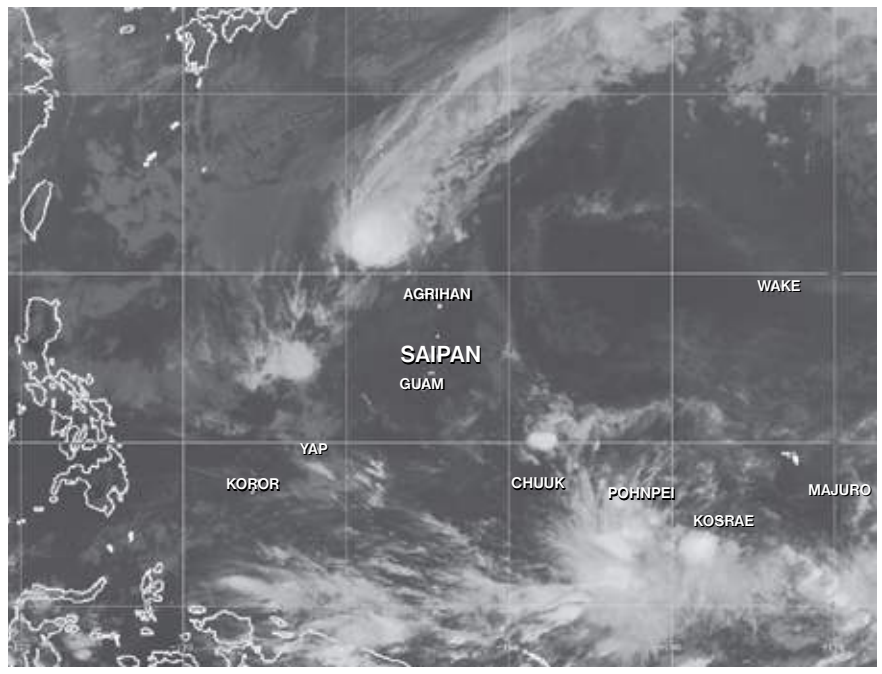
## Around The Globe

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Rain | ▲69 | ▼59 |
| Beijing | Sunny | ▲41 | ▼24 |
| Hong Kong | Sunny | ▲66 | ▼56 |
| Honolulu | Showers | ▲79 | ▼64 |
| London | Cloudy | ▲48 | ▼43 |
| Los Angeles | Mostly Sunny | ▲73 | ▼46 |
| Manila | Cloudy | ▲84 | ▼73 |
| Melbourne | Mostly Sunny | ▲69 | ▼49 |
| Miami | Cloudy | ▲84 | ▼74 |
| New York | Mostly Sunny | ▲52 | ▼37 |
| Osaka | Dreary | ▲54 | ▼40 |
| Paris | Showers | ▲51 | ▼46 |
| Pusan | Mostly Sunny | ▲51 | ▼36 |
| Rome | Mostly Sunny | ▲60 | ▼40 |
| Salem | Cloudy | ▲45 | ▼27 |
| San Francisco | Partly Sunny | ▲61 | ▼40 |
| Seoul | Ice | ▲28 | ▼21 |
| Tokyo | Rain | ▲52 | ▼44 |
| Washington, DC | Partly Sunny | ▲51 | ▼37 |

## Tides

| Saipan Harbor | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3:32 AM Today | Low Tide: | 0.7 Feet |
| 10:52 AM Today | High Tide: | 2.0 Feet |
| 4:10 PM Today | Low Tide: | 1.4 Feet |
| 8:43 PM Today | High Tide: | 2.0 Feet |

## Yesterday's Satellite Image




**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2009**
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A tropical disturbance is centered near 20N141E with scattered showers and thunderstorms within 100 miles of 21N141E. Convergent winds are causing extensive clouds and patchy rain up to 300 miles northwest of a line from 20N130E to 19N136E to 25N143E. A surface trough west of Guam extends from 17N139E to 14N136E with scattered showers within 50 miles of the trough. A monsoon trough extends southeastward from 10N145E across Pohnpei to 2N170E then eastward beyond 180 at 2N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are within 75 miles of a line from 9N155E to 6N160E.

## Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:29 AM | 5:46 PM |
| Sunday | 6:30 AM | 5:46 PM |
| Monday | 6:30 AM | 5:46 PM |
| Tuesday | 6:31 AM | 5:46 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:32 AM | 5:47 PM |

## Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 8:49 PM | 9:09 AM |
| Sunday | 9:52 PM | 10:02 AM |
| Monday | 10:51 PM | 10:50 AM |
| Tuesday | 11:47 PM | 11:34 AM |
| Wednesday | | 12:15 PM |

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**For pictures:**

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

**For announcements:**

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2009

### DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09597 | 11:30am | 12:05pm | 1, 7 |

**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09597 | 12:40pm | 1:10pm | 1, 7 |

**SAIPAN-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09317 | 4:45am | 5:35am | Daily |
| C09313 | 8:30am | 9:20am | Daily |
| C09597 | 11:30am | 1:10pm | 1, 7 via ROP |
| C09601 | 12:20pm | 1:10pm | 4, 5 |
| C09603 | 3:15pm | 4:05pm | Daily |
| C09605 | 6:20pm | 7:10pm | Daily |
| C09599 | 9:20pm | 10:10pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW287 | 6:00am | 7:30pm | Daily via NRT |

**SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW287 | 6:00am | 8:40am | Daily |
| NW297 | 4:45pm | 7:30pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ608 | 3:20am | 6:50am | 1, 5 |

**SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ604 | 2:10am | 6:00am | 1 |
| OZ604 | 2:40am | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| OZ606 | 3:20pm | 7:00pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 |

**SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| FM844 | 2:50am | 5:40am | 2, 6 |

**SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CZ3008 | 3:30am | 6:40am | 2, 6 |

**SAIPAN-MANILA**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ604/701 | 2:10am | 11:50am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ604/701 | 2:40am | 11:50am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| OZ604/703 | 2:50am | 11:25am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| OZ608/705 | 3:20am | 13:30am+1 | 1, 5 via PUS |
| C09603/933 | 3:15pm | 9:40pm | Daily via GUM |
| C09605/933 | 6:20pm | 9:40pm | Daily via GUM |
| C09599/PR111 | 9:20pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM |

**SAIPAN-HONG KONG**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ604/721 | 2:10am | 12:00pm | 1 via ICN |
| OZ604/721 | 2:40am | 12:00pm | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| OZ606/749 | 3:20pm | 11:00pm | 4, 6, 7 via ICN |

### ARRIVALS

**ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09598 | 3:30am | 4:05am | 5, 6 |
| C09312 | 1:20pm | 1:55pm | 6 |

**GUAM-ROTA (ROP)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09598 | 2:20am | 2:50am | 5, 6 |
| C09312 | 12:10pm | 12:40pm | 6 |

**GUAM-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09598 | 2:20am | 4:05am | 5, 6 via ROP |
| C09316 | 2:20am | 3:10am | 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 |
| C09596 | 7:00am | 7:50am | Daily |
| C09600 | 10:05am | 10:55am | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09312 | 12:10pm | 1:55pm | 6 via ROP |
| C09602 | 1:50pm | 2:40pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09604 | 4:50pm | 5:40pm | Daily |
| C09606 | 8:00pm | 8:50pm | Daily |

**NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW288 | 12:05pm | 1:20am+1 | Daily via NRT |

**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW298 | 10:05pm | 2:50pm | Daily |
| NW288 | 8:45pm | 1:20am+1 | Daily |

**BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ607 | 9:00pm | 2:10am+1 | 4, 7 |

**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ605 | 9:00am | 2:20pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| OZ603 | 7:40pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 |
| OZ603 | 8:10pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |

**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| FM843 | 7:15pm | 1:50am+1 | 1, 5 |

**GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CZ3007 | 7:30pm | 2:40am+1 | 1, 5 |

**MANILA-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ706/607 | 3:35am | 2:10am+1 | 4, 7 via PUS |
| OZ702/603 | 1:10pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ702/603 | 1:10pm | 1:30am+1 via ICN | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| PR110/C09596 | 10:10pm | 7:50am+1 via GUM | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 |
| C0934/9596 | 11:10pm | 7:50am+1 | Daily via GUM |
| OZ704/605 | 11:55pm | 2:20pm+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN |
| OZ716/605 | 12:30am | 2:20pm | 4 via ICN |

**HONG KONG-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ724/605 | 12:30am | 2:20pm | 2,4,6,7 via ICN |
| OZ750/605 | 1:00am | 2:20pm | 2,4,6,7 via ICN |
| OZ722/603 | 1:30pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ722/603 | 1:30pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:00am | 7:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:50am | 8:20am | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:00am | 9:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:50am | 10:15am | Daily |
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:00pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:50pm | 5:25pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:00pm | 6:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:45pm | 7:15pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Tinian** | | | |
| FRE 101 | 6:45am | 6:55am | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30am | 7:40am | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00am | 8:10am | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40am | 8:50am | Daily |
| FRE 109* | 9:10am | 9:20am | Daily |
| FRE 111* | 10:45am | 10:55am | Daily |

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| FRE 113 | 11:40am | 11:50am | Daily |
| FRE 115 | 1:00pm | 1:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 117 | 2:30pm | 2:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 119 | 4:00pm | 4:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 121 | 4:40pm | 4:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 123 * | 5:40pm | 5:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 125 * | 6:00pm | 6:10pm | Daily |
| **Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**** | | | |
| FRE 102 | 7:05am | 7:15am | Daily |
| FRE 104 | 7:50am | 8:00am | Daily |
| FRE 106** | 8:20am | 8:30am | Daily |
| FRE 108** | 9:00am | 9:10am | Daily |
| FRE 110 | 10:00am | 10:10am | Daily |
| FRE 112 | 11:05am | 11:15am | Daily |
| FRE 114 | 12:00pm | 12:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 116 | 1:30pm | 1:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 118 | 2:50pm | 3:00pm | Daily |
| FRE 120** | 4:20pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| FRE 122** | 5:00pm | 5:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 124 | 6:05pm | 6:15pm | Daily |
| FRE 126 | 6:20pm | 6:30pm | Daily |

## Schedule of Religious Services

### CATHOLIC

**Mt. Carmel Cathedral**
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

**Korean Center**
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

**Kristo Rai Parish**
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

**Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish**
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

**Saint Jude Parish**
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

**San Antonio Parish**
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

**San Francisco de Borja-Rota**
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

**San Isidro-Rota**
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

**San Jose (Oleai) Parish**
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

**San Roque Parish**
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

**San Vicente Parish**
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

**Santa Remedios**
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

**Santa Soledad**
Sunday: 7:30am

### PROTESTANT

**Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan**
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

**Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan**
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

**Chinese Christian Church of Saipan**
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

**Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan**
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

**Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan**
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

**Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan**
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

**Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan**
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

**Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville**
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

**Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)**
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

**Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan**
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

**Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan**
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

**Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan**
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

**Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan**
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

**Missions Connection Ministry**
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

**Northern Marianas Christian Church**
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

**Saipan Bible Fellowship Church**
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

**Saipan Christian Church**
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

**Saipan Church of Christ**
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

**Saipan Community Church**
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan**
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

**First Baptist Church**
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

**Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center**
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

**Upper Room International Ministries**
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service,
Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

**Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church**
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

### DEC. 5, 2000

**Investors defend 'shooting resorts'**
Foreign investors seeking to establish international shooting ranges in the CNMI hosted Saturday an affair that gathered local leaders, prospective investors, and other guests in renewed efforts to calm fears on the safety of setting up so-called "shooting resorts" on the islands. URS Corporation, a newly-chartered business group that has pledged an initial $25 million for the undertaking, said it was giving the Northern Marianas until the end of December to seize the unique investment opportunity that investors project would boost the local tourism industry. This was coupled with a promise that should "shooting resorts" become a reality in the CNMI, international shooting competitions will be forthcoming within the next three years from the completion of the facility.

**Japanese travelers know little about Saipanda**
A survey conducted by a Tokyo-based marketing firm revealed that only 32.2 percent of the 1,000 Japanese surveyed are aware of the existence of Saipanda campaign promoting the Northern Marianas in Japan. Of this, 65.8 percent learned about it through television commercial, 34.2 percent through newspapers and magazines and 16.1 percent through flyers/travel pamphlets. K.K. Creative Assist was chosen by MVA to conduct a marketing survey on the CNMI's market share in Japan as well as determine the effectiveness of its advertising campaign after over one year of using the Saipanda character.

### DEC. 5, 2001

**Military drops 'heavy equipment' on Tinian**
The US military has started unloading heavy equipment on Tinian amid reports that it is planning to use its leased land on the island as a holding area for captured members of the al-Qaida network of terrorist leader Osama bin Laden, aside from Afghan refugees. Emergency Management Office Deputy Director Mark S. Pangelinan told the Saipan Tribune that they received a message from the US Navy late yesterday afternoon, saying that there will be a "heavy equipment drop" on Tinian for ten days. Based on an EMO advisory, the activity would have started yesterday at 2pm and would have lasted for three hours. Pangelinan said he is not aware as to what heavy equipment the military is unloading on the island. "I want to know what's going on because that's very unusual," Pangelinan said. "I'm curious to know what's going on. We need to inform the public what's going on."

**NMI garment industry faces tougher global competition**
Citing numerous preferential trade treatments given to other countries by the United States, the Saipan garment industry braces for a stiffer global competition in 2002 amid the continuing economic recession. Saipan Garment Manufacturing Association Executive Director Richard Pierce said the garment industry has troubled waters ahead due to competition brought mainly by the favorable treatment from the mainland US to several countries. Pierce explained that the Saipan garment industry will be forced to compete with factories in other countries that would be able to provide products of the same quality at a better price as a result of these preferential treatments.

### DEC. 5, 2002

**PSS survey says some students engage in sex before age 11**
Latest analysis from a youth risk-survey conducted last year by the Public School System showed that more teenagers in the CNMI having sex. The PSS' Selected Results from the 2001 CNMI High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey showed that 50.9 percent of the students have had sexual intercourse, and that 34.5 percent had it with one or more people. Among high school students, 8.5 percent of respondents had sexual intercourse before the age 13, while some (5.1 percent) middle school respondents said they first had sex before 11 years old.

**Govt works on getting $19-M loan**
The Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee is racing against time to work out the technical aspects of the $19-million loan that the government is aiming to obtain from lending institutions, in the hope of paying off its rebate and refund obligations before Christmas Day. Committee Chair Sen. Jose M. Dela Cruz disclosed yesterday that the Senate panel is coordinating with the Marianas Public Lands Trust and the Babauta administration in this effort. "What will happen is, a lending institution will lend us the money but MPLT will guarantee the loan. That's how you can borrow the money—with a good interest rate and to make sure that we get the money. MPLT might float the bond in our behalf because they have over $50 million sitting on their coffers," explained Dela Cruz.

# Business

## Job creation near but...

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The economy is getting closer to generating jobs for the first time in two years, but it probably won't be enough to stop the unemployment rate from rising.

Analysts expect the Labor Department will report Friday that employers cut a net total of 130,000 jobs in November, according to a survey by Thomson Reuters. That's an improvement from 190,000 the previous month.

The department is also expected to say the unemployment rate will remain 10.2 percent, the same as in October, a 26-year high.

Two economic reports Thursday gave some economists hope that employers will gear up hiring early next year and that the economy will start adding jobs in the first quarter. But the unemployment rate may still rise well into 2010.

That's because 15.7 million unemployed Americans will also have to compete against a huge number of "underemployed" workers for any new jobs that are created. The government estimates there are another 11.7 million people working fewer hours than they'd like or that have given up looking for work.

It could take years for the economy to generate enough jobs for all those people and bring down the unemployment rate, analysts said.

Persistent joblessness is causing political headaches for President Barack Obama, who held a "job summit" Thursday at the White House.

Obama told the assembled economists, business executives and union leaders that the leading question of the day is, "how do we get businesses to start hiring again?"

Companies are firing fewer employees. The number of newly laid-off workers claiming unemployment benefits fell for the fifth straight week, the Labor Department said Thursday, to the lowest level in over a year.

First-time claims for unemployment insurance dropped by 5,000 to 457,000, much better than the increase analysts had anticipated.

The drop indicates that layoffs are slowing. If claims drop to about 425,000 for several weeks, that could be a sign the economy will see net job gains. That level could be reached as soon as February, several economists said.

"We're not that far away from seeing the labor market begin to stabilize and create jobs," said Bruce Kasman, chief economist at JPMorgan Chase & Co.

## Comcast and NBC deal shows future is in content

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—Comcast Corp. is buying control of NBC Universal from GE largely because Comcast wants to own more movies and TV shows. The point is to give it a position of strength if fewer people sign up for its cable TV services and watch more video online.

It's understandable why the strategy might seem dubious: Another media company, Time Warner Inc., just gave up on that and spun off its cable TV division.

Yet while Comcast seems to be taking a different approach—marrying entertainment content with the largest cable TV system in the nation—it and Time Warner have arrived at the same conclusion: The future is in content, and the pipes that carry it matter less.

That's why Time Warner could jettison the business of selling subscription TV service and focus on the Warner Bros. movie studio, cable channels such as CNN and HBO and magazines such as People and Sports Illustrated.

Comcast's hard-wired delivery system serves a quarter of the nation's pay TV households and isn't about to be thrown overboard. But Comcast has decided it must be much more than a cable TV provider. That's why CEO Brian Roberts tried—unsuccessfully—to buy Walt Disney Co. for $54 billion in 2004.

Even after acquiring or developing cable TV channels including E! and Golf Channel and sources of programming such as the Philadelphia Flyers and 76ers, cable TV and other services running through Comcast's pipes make up 95 percent of its revenue. That would drop to 65 percent if the NBC Universal deal goes through, giving Comcast control of the Peacock network, cable channels such as USA, Bravo and Syfy and the Universal Pictures studio.

And over time cable TV figures to matter even less, as people watch more video on PCs and cell phones or through video game consoles connected to the Internet.

Content companies such as Time Warner and NBC Universal are already trying to serve consumers in multiple ways, including online, and are less tied to one format over another.

"Cable is under the most threat and is the most motivated to take this new relationship and make it work for consumers," said James McQuivey, a media and technology analyst for Forrester Research. "If NBC were to own Comcast, I would not be nearly as optimistic about this."

# Nation

# Health bill survives first big test—on Medicare

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Unflinching on a critical first test, Senate Democrats closed ranks Thursday behind $460 billion in politically risky Medicare cuts at the heart of health care legislation, thwarting a Republican attempt to doom President Barack Obama's sweeping overhaul.

The bid by the bill's critics to reverse cuts to the popular Medicare program failed on a vote of 58-42, drawing the support of two Democratic defectors. Approval would have stripped out money needed to pay for expanding coverage to tens of millions of uninsured Americans.

The broader legislation aims to extend health coverage to 31 million who now lack it, while barring insurance industry practices such as denying coverage on the basis of pre-existing medical conditions. Though the overhaul is estimated to cost about $1 trillion over a decade, the Congressional Budget Office has said it would cut federal deficits by $130 billion over that period, and probably reduce them further in the 10 years beyond that.

"Our bill does nothing to reduce guaranteed Medicare benefits," said Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., as several fellow Democrats accused Republican critics of making false claims of potential harm during three days of debate.

AP

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev., right, and Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md. meet with reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday,Dec. 1, 2009.

The AARP supported the 10-year package of cuts in projected spending, giving Democrats political cover for their decision to pare back subsidies to private Medicare plans as well as payments to hospitals, hospices, home health agencies and other providers.

Republicans disagreed vigorously. "Medicare is already in trouble. The program needs to be fixed, not raided to create another new government program," said the party's leader, Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

The Medicare vote came not long after the Senate backed a guarantee for all insured women age 40 and older to receive mammograms with no out-of-pocket costs. The breast cancer screening test would be included in an array of preventive measures that insurance plans would be required to cover. The proposal cleared on a near party-line vote of 61-39, one more than the 60 needed for passage. It essentially wiped out a federal advisory committee recommendation to defer routine mammograms until women reach the age of 50.

The day's votes were the first since the Senate's health care debate began on Monday, and demonstrated the ability of Democrats to move ahead in the face of implacable Republican opposition.

At the same time, Democrats worked in private meetings to settle controversies within the party that are still standing in the way of the bill's passage. The most contentious of these involves proposals for the government to sell insurance in competition with private companies, an approach supported by liberals but opposed by most Democratic moderates and conservatives.

"Our caucus is now in the process of negotiating with ourselves because we need all 60 of us to get this done," said Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., after one closed-door meeting. Senate procedures require 60 votes to overcome Republican delaying tactics designed to kill the bill.

Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said he expected all such issues to be worked out soon, but he did not specify precisely when.

For the time being, that left the two parties free to engage in an intensely political debate on health care, an issue that is certain to play a role in next year's midterm elections.

Unwilling to allow Republican charges on Medicare to go unanswered, Democrats responded with an alternative that stated no guaranteed benefits would be cut from the program and its finances would be strengthened.

# Ind. teen charged with strangling brother, 10

**INDIANAPOLIS** (AP)—Ignoring his younger brother's plea of "Andrew, stop," a 17-year-old who told authorities he identified with a television serial killer strangled the boy, dragged the body to his car and drove to see his girlfriend, an Indiana prosecutor said Thursday.

Andrew Conley of Rising Sun was calm and showed no remorse or emotion as he described strangling 10-year-old Conner Conley as the two wrestled Sunday, a probable cause affidavit said. Conley told investigators he dumped his brother's body near a park in the Ohio River community about 90 miles southeast of Indianapolis.

"Sometimes people are just evil," Dearborn-Ohio County Prosecutor Aaron Negangard said. "This is an evil child."

Conley

Prosecutors filed preliminary charges of murder against Conley along with a supporting affidavit Thursday. Conley is being charged as an adult and will appear Friday in court, Negangard said.

Conley's family did not immediately return messages for comment Thursday. Negangard said Conley had an attorney but none was listed in the affidavit.

The teen told investigators he had had fantasies about killing someone since he was in eighth grade, including cutting somebody's throat, and felt "just like" the serial killer Dexter on the Showtime television series of the same name. He said killing his brother satisfied a craving like a hamburger satisfied hunger.

"Like I had to ... like when people have something like they are hungry and there is a hamburger sitting there and they knew they had to have it and I was sitting there and it just happened," Conley told investigators in the affidavit.

The slaying comes six weeks after 15-year-old Alyssa Bustamante told Missouri authorities she strangled, stabbed and cut a 9-year-old neighbor's throat because she wanted to know what it was like to kill someone.

# Rain, winds, record heat hit Northeast on same day

**PORTLAND, Maine** (AP)—A storm packing blustery winds and driving rain knocked out power to thousands of homes and businesses in the Northeast on Thursday before giving way to sunny skies and record high temperatures—all in the same morning.

Utility officials reported sporadic power outages from Maine to New Jersey after wind knocked down trees and power lines early Thursday. Winds reached up to 49 mph in Brunswick, Maine, while the Isle of Shoals off the coast of New Hampshire recorded a 61 mph gust. In New Jersey, wind speeds topped out at 45 mph.

But the rain and wind that battered the region early Thursday gave way to sunny skies and unseasonably high temperatures by mid-morning.

In Boston, the temperature hit 69 degrees, breaking the old record of 65 set in 1932. In Portland, the temperature climbed to 68 degrees—crushing the old high of 55 for the date. Providence, R.I., had a record high of 66, and Concord, N.H., set a record at 65.

"It's not right. It's December. It's supposed to be snowing," said Jennifer Sporzynski, who sat on a park bench Thursday in Portland's Old Port. "I like warm weather - but not in December."

But for others, the balmy weather was just fine.

In Boston, joggers ran downtown in shorts and T-shirts, while walkers strolled through the city with jackets tied around their waists.

David Montero, 36, exited his Downtown Crossing apartment Thursday morning wearing a heavy coat to walk his 2-year-old Boston Terrier named Bolt.

"I personally would take this all week, if we could have it," Montero said as he watched Bolt play with two other dogs in the Boston Common.

# Fort Hood cop says her career has been cut short

**FORT WORTH, Texas** (AP)—One of two civilian police officers who brought down the Army psychiatrist accused of going on a shooting rampage at Fort Hood said her wounds from the attack will cut short her career as street police officer.

Sgt. Kimberly Munley said doctors have told her she needs a total knee replacement, a surgery set for January, but that her new knee is likely to wear out sooner if she runs or carries the 15- to 25-pound gear pack required by her job.

"I do want to stay in law enforcement. I'm not going to be able to do what I did before, which is basically work the street," she told Wilmington, N.C., television station WECT on Wednesday. "It's going to give me another avenue to look in as far as possibly teaching and instructing."

Fort Hood officials said Thursday that Munley, 34, who was shot in the leg and hand, has not started the process to determine if she's physically able to do her former job.

Munley and Sgt. Mark Todd, another civilian officer in Fort Hood's police force, are credited with shooting Maj. Nidal Hasan to end the Nov. 5 shooting spree on the Texas Army post, about 150 miles southwest of Fort Worth. Todd, 42, was not injured and is already back at work.

Hasan remains hospitalized in a San Antonio military hospital but is paralyzed from his wounds, said his attorney John Galligan.

Meanwhile, the Army Reserve unit that Hasan apparently was supposed to deploy with plans to leave for Afghanistan as scheduled early Friday, Fort Hood officials said Thursday. Three soldiers from the Madison, Wis.-based combat stress unit died in the shooting and others were injured.

Hasan has been charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder and 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder. Army officials have not said if they will seek the death penalty, but they plan an evaluation in the next 45 days to determine his mental state that day and whether he is competent to stand trial.

## ACROSS THE NATION

### Oregon tree hunters tell of 2 nights stuck in snow

**MEDFORD, Ore.** (AP)—Keith and Jennifer Lee were driving home on a remote mountain road, their prized Christmas tree strapped to the roof of their all-wheel-drive, when they rounded a backcountry corner and found themselves suddenly mired in snow. Out of cell phone range, and unaware a search was under way, the couple spent three days and two cold nights before Keith Lee finally freed the Subaru and drove home, the tree still tied on top. They soon heard radio news reports about a search that had begun Wednesday with a helicopter, Sno-Cats and ATVs. They called 911, then phoned a close friend who was taking care of their four children.

### Records of man claiming to be Calif. spy unsealed

**WEST COVINA, Calif.** (AP)—A judge on Thursday lifted a seal on court records and transcripts that a Southern California man says will prove he was an informant for the FBI. Craig Monteilh claims he has not been fully paid by the FBI for spying on mosques—an activity that angered the Muslim community and brought accusations that worshippers and clerics were being targeted instead of possible terrorists. Superior Court Judge Carol Williams Elswick ordered the unsealing of 2007 court records related to a theft case against Monteilh, 47, a fitness consultant from Irvine.

### Texas executes killer of 11-year-old girl

**HUNTSVILLE, Texas** (AP)—A 44-year-old Texas man was executed Thursday evening for raping and murdering an 11-year-old girl, despite pleas from his attorneys he was too mentally impaired to qualify for capital punishment. Bobby Wayne Woods received lethal injection about a half-hour after the U.S. Supreme Court refused to halt his punishment, which was delayed briefly until the high court ruled in his case. His lawyers had argued Woods was mentally impaired, making him ineligible for execution, and that previous appeals to spare Woods' life were unsuccessful because of shoddy work by his lawyer at the time. Tests administered to Woods put his IQ anywhere from the 60s to the 80s. An IQ of 70 is considered the threshold for mental impairment.

# Asia

## Nepal holds highest Cabinet meeting at Mt. Everest camp

**SYANGBOCHE, Nepal** (AP)—Nepal's top politicians strapped on oxygen tanks Friday and held a Cabinet meeting amid the frigid, thin air of Mount Everest to highlight the danger global warming poses to glaciers ahead of next week's international climate change talks.

The government billed the event as the world's highest Cabinet meeting, and getting the ministers to the mountain safely required extensive planning.

Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, his two deputy prime ministers and the 20 Cabinet ministers were examined by doctors before boarding helicopters to Kalapathar, a flat area at an altitude of 17,192 feet (5,250 meters) next to Everest base camp, the jumping point for climbers seeking to scale the peak.

The Himalayan Rescue Association's Bikram Neupane said the politicians—bundled in thick jackets, windproof gear and woolen hats—all had adequate oxygen levels in their blood and they were in no immediate danger.

AP

Nepal's Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, center, and members of the cabinet raise hands in favor of a document to highlight the negative impacts of global warming on Mount Everest, seen in the background, during a special cabinet meeting at Kalapatthar in Nepal, Friday, Dec. 4, 2009.

The Cabinet met only briefly next to the mountain in an effort to prevent any of the ministers, unused to the heights of the Himalayas, from getting altitude sickness.

The ministers stayed overnight Thursday in the town of Lukla, about 9,180 feet (2,800 meters) high, to acclimatize to the higher elevation. They then traveled to Syangboche—12,800 feet (3,900 meters) high—where they took the helicopter to the mountain.

They were expected to return to Syangboche later to hold a news conference.

## Officials: Top Indian rebel surrenders

**GAUHATI, India** (AP)—The commander of a powerful rebel movement in India's remote northeast surrendered Friday with a top deputy, officials said.

Arabinda Rajkhowa, the chairman of the United Liberation Front of Asom, or ULFA, gave himself up to Indian authorities along with the group's deputy military chief, a bodyguard, and seven family members, said Ravi Gandhi, a spokesman for the Border Security Force.

They surrendered at the Indian border post of Dawki, in northeastern Meghalaya state, just steps away from Bangladesh.

Rajkhowa has long been believed to operate from Bangladesh.

The militants were "roaming about on the Indian side when our troopers came in contact with them leading to their surrender," Gandhi said by telephone.

ULFA has fought for an independent homeland for ethnic Assamese people in India's northeast for the past two decades. At least 10,000 people, most civilians, have died in Assam state because of fighting between government forces and ULFA rebels, as well as with another separatist group, the National Democratic Front of Boroland.

## Australian dives face-first into deadly jellyfish

**SYDNEY** (AP)—A man dove face-first into an extremely venomous, peanut-sized jellyfish in waters off northeast Australia and medics flew him to a hospital intensive care unit to treat the potentially fatal sting, officials said Friday.

The 29-year-old man, whose name has not been released, was on a yacht Thursday off northeast Queensland state. As a precaution, he was wearing a full-length "stinger suit," a lightweight version of a wetsuit that covers everything but the face, feet and hands and helps protect against venomous jellyfish that are common in northern Australia's waters during the Southern Hemisphere summer.

But when he dove into the water near South Molle Island, he was immediately stung in the face by a potentially lethal Irukandji jellyfish, Central Queensland Helicopter Rescue Service spokeswoman Leonie Hansen said. He was taken back to the island, where a rescue team rushed to his aid.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Chinese mob bosses sentenced to death in crackdown

**GUANGZHOU, China** (AP)—Two mob bosses—nicknamed the "Hammerhead" and "Spicy Qin"—have been sentenced to death for murder and illegally running a business empire involving underground casinos, cement factories and poultry markets in southern China, a court official and local media said Friday. The long-awaited verdict, which was 60,000 pages long, is the latest development in a sweeping crackdown on organized crime in China. High-profile trials in other parts of the country have exposed powerful criminal networks, often involving collusion between gangsters and officials. In the latest sentencing Thursday in the city of Yangjiang, Xu Jianqiang, the "Hammerhead," was sentenced to death and fined 310 million yuan ($45.4 million), said a court official who would only give her surname, Mo. His convictions included abetting three murders.

#### China sentences 5 more to death for Xinjiang riots

**BEIJING** (AP)—A Chinese court sentenced five more people to death Thursday for killing a police officer with a brick, kicking bystanders to death and other crimes committed during ethnic riots that rocked the western region of Xinjiang in July. The Intermediate People's Court of Urumqi also sentenced two others to life in prison, said a woman who answered the phone at the media center of the Xinjiang regional government. Like many Chinese officials, she refused to give her name. China announced last month that nine Uighurs had been executed for taking part in the ethnic rioting that left nearly 200 people dead in July. It was China's worst ethnic violence in decades.

# World

## Knox tells Italian court she is no killer

**PERUGIA, Italy** (AP)—American student Amanda Knox tried one last time Thursday to convince the Italian court trying her for murder that she is not a killer, urging jurors not to brand her with "the mask of an assassin."

Knox

Knox spoke at the end of a trial that has exposed some of the most intimate details of her life, with prosecutors depicting her as a promiscuous and manipulative she-devil who brutally murdered her British roommate in Perugia, Meredith Kercher.

The trial, in which Knox's ex-boyfriend Raffaele Sollecito figures as a co-defendant, is wrapping up after almost a year. Thursday's session was devoted to rebuttals by defense lawyers and the prosecution, and the eight members of the jury are expected to begin deliberations as early as Friday.

Standing up, her voice breaking as she fought back tears, the 22-year-old American told the court that she feels "vulnerable" and fears losing herself after two years in jail.

"I have written on a piece of paper ... that I was afraid of losing myself," she said, speaking Italian. "I am scared of being branded what I am not," she said. "I am scared of having the mask of an assassin forced onto me."

Knox and Sollecito, an Italian, are charged with murder and sexual assault in the 2007 slaying. Prosecutors are seeking life sentences, while both defendants are pleading innocent. Any verdict can be appealed by both parties.

Both Knox, a 22-year-old student from Seattle, and Sollecito, 25, have been jailed since shortly after the slaying.

## Clinton arrives for NATO talks, praises allies

**BRUSSELS** (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, arriving Friday at NATO headquarters, welcomed an expected series of announcements by allied nations of additional military, civilian and financial support for the war effort in Afghanistan.

Clinton was attending a string of meetings here with allied foreign ministers and with representatives of non-NATO countries that have troops in Afghanistan, plus Russia. She sought to sell President Barack Obama's revamped war strategy, which banks on major new allied contributions, not just to escalate the combat effort but also to bolster civilian functions and provide more development aid.

Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top American commander in Afghanistan, also was to attend the meeting of NATO's main political council to explain the 43-nation military mission, which he has sought to revise and reinforce since he took over command last June. He has described conditions in the fight against Taliban extremists—now in its ninth year—as serious and deteriorating.

Allied governments need to be able to sell their publics on the idea of enlarging the war, and particularly those countries in which political parties share power have to be sure "the political stars are in alignment" before they announce new commitments, Clinton said.

## Dubai ruler's ambition helped sow seeds of crisis

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates** (AP)—Dubai's ruler writes poetry, rides horses across the desert in long-distance endurance races and hobnobs with royals like the Queen of England. Mixing extravagance with boundless ambition, he commanded the desert city-state's meteoric rise—and helped sow the seeds, some observers say, of its debt crisis.

Sheik Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum's business-over-politics approach turned Dubai into a city-state with the surface trappings of Western liberalism—a thin veneer over the conservatism and strict political boundaries familiar throughout the Arab world.

Drink at the bars, wear bikinis at the beach, hit the discos and make money, was the overt message. But there was a red line in the sand: Don't question his grandiose plans or the foundations they were built on. Those foundations, it turns out, were not oil, but other people's money. Lots of it.

"In the past, the ruler was trusted on finances because everyone thought they were backed by oil," said Simon Henderson, a Gulf and energy specialist at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. "It will be different from now on."

Dubai is one of seven highly autonomous statelets that make up the United Arab Emirates. Though UAE capital Abu Dhabi has huge oil riches, neighboring Dubai has very little.

The 60-year-old Mohammed's confidence and ambition gave way to aspirations to place Dubai in the same league as London or New York.

Forging ahead with eye-popping development, he vigorously wooed investors, leading to excesses that created a speculative bubble. One of the biggest borrowers was the government's own development vehicle, the conglomerate Dubai World, which shook markets with its announcement last week that it needed to delay payments on part of its $60 billion debt.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Suicide bomber hits Somali graduation, 22 dead

**MOGADISHU, Somalia** (AP)—A suicide bomber disguised as a woman attacked a graduation ceremony in Somalia on Thursday, turning a rare reason to celebrate into carnage that killed at least 22 people—including medical students, doctors and three government ministers. The blast was blamed on Islamic militants who have shown a rising ability to carry out sophisticated large-scale bombings against high-profile targets—and highlighted the inability of Somalia's weak government to protect even the small section of the capital it controls. "Today should have been a day of celebration—not mourning," said Somalia's ambassador to Kenya, Mohamed Ali Nur. "The hopes of many parents who eagerly awaited their sons' graduation were recklessly dashed ... cutting short the lives of ambitious Somalis."

#### Cuba blasts US black leaders for charges of racism

**HAVANA** (AP)—Cuba hit back Thursday at 60 prominent U.S. black leaders who challenged its race record, with island writers, artists and official journalists calling the criticism an attack on their country's national identity. The five-page signed statement, distributed by Cuban government press officials in an e-mail, defended Cuba's progress in providing social and personal opportunities for blacks and people of mixed race. But it focused more on Cuba's past than the racial inequalities of contemporary Cuban society that came under criticism from Americans such as Princeton University professor Cornel West; Jeremiah Wright, former pastor of President Barack Obama's Chicago church; and Susan Taylor, former editor of Essence magazine.

Maharlika
PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS
Saturday, December 5, 2009

# Mga tanong at sagot tungkol sa parole

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

David Gulick, district director for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, second from right, leads other federal officials in a news briefing held Tuesday at the USCIS office at TSL Plaza in Garapan about changes in immigration regulations in the CNMI. Gulick was joined at the briefing by Alexander Y. Hartman, immigration policy adviser at the DHS Office of Policy Development, Wayne Wills, special agent-in-charge at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Investigations-Hawaii; Michael A. Samaniego, assistant field director for ICE's Detention and Removal Operations; Jerry Aevermann, U.S. Customs and Border Protection interim port director for the CNMI; and CBP port director for Hawaii Bruce Murley.

Ipinatupad ang batas sa imigrasyon ng U.S. sa Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands nuong Nob. 28, 2009. Noong Mayo 8, 2008, nilagdaan ni Pangulong George W. Bush para maging batas ang Public Law 110-229, ang *Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008*. Ang Title VII ng batas na ito ay nagsusog sa Public Law 94-241, ang batas na nag-aaproba sa Kasunduang Itatag ang Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas sa Unyong Politikal ng Estados Unidos. Ang Title VII ay nagpapalawak sa ilang mga probisyon sa mga batas sa imigrasyon ng Estados Unidos, kabilang ang Immigration and Nationality Act, sa CNMI.

Magbibigay ng parole (pansamantalang pagpapapasok) ang United States Citizenship and Immigration Services sa indibidwal na paraan sa mga kwalipikadong indibidwal sa ilang grupo ng mga dayuhan sa CNMI. Gagamitin ang kapangyarihang ito alinsunod sa section 212(d)(5) ng INA at ng mga mapapairal na regulasyon.

**Q: Ano-anong mga grupo sa CNMI ang maaaring maging kwalipikado sa pagbibigay ng parole?**

**A:** Ang sumusunod na mga grupo ay maaaring maging kwalipikado sa pagbibigay ng parole:

- Permanenteng mga residente ng CNMI;
- Malalapit na kamag-anak ng permanenteng mga residente ng CNMI;
- Mga asawa at mga anak ng namatay na permanenteng mga residente ng CNMI; at
- Mga malalapit na kamag-anak ng mga mamamayan ng Freely Associated States (ang Republic of Palau, ang Federated States of Micronesia, at ang Republic of the Marshall Islands).

**Q: Ano ang isang malapit na kamag-anak?**

**A:** Para lang sa programa ng parole na ito, gagamitin ng USCIS ang kahulugan ng "malapit na kamag-anak" (immediate relative) sa ilalim ng batas ng CNMI. Ang "malapit na kamag-anak" ay nangangahulugang:

- Isang kinilala sa batas na asawa;
- Anak na mababa sa edad 21 natural na anak man o ampon bago ang edad 18;
- Ang stepchild (anak ng asawa) kung ang kasal na lumikha sa relasyon ng stepchild ay naganap bago ang ika-18 kaarawan ng anak; o
- Ang buhay na asawa o anak ng isang permanenteng residente ng CNMI.

**Q: Ano ang ibig sabihin ng katayuan ng parole?**

**A:** Ang aplikante para sa pagpasok sa ilalim ng batas sa imigrasyon ng U.S. ay isang dayuhan na sinuri at pinapasok ng isang opisyal ng imigrasyon ng U.S. Mula sa petsa ng pagsisimula (Nob. 28, 2009) ng programa ng transisyon, ang mga dayuhang nasa CNMI na walang katayuan sa imigrasyon ng U.S. ay magiging mga aplikante para sa pagpapapasok. Ang USCIS ay may kapangyarihan sa pagpapasya para sa mga aplikante ng parole sa pagpapapasok para sa pangmadaliang makataong mga dahilan o makabuluhang benepisyo ng publiko. Ang dayuhang pansamantalang pinapasok ay mananatiling aplikante para sa pagpapapasok, ngunit positibong pinahintulutang manatili sa Estados Unidos at maaaring mag-aplay sa pagaaproba na papasyahan (discretionary grant) para sa pahintulot na magtrabaho.

**Q: Gaano katagal na balido itong katayuan ng parole?**

**A:** Ang katayuan ng parole ay karaniwang balido sa loob ng dalawang taon at maaaring ma-renew batay sa patuloy na kaangkupan ng dayuhan. At saka, maaaring pawalan ng bisa ng USCIS ang pagbibigay ng parole kung may dahilan na gawin ito (gaya ng kung ang pansamantalang pinapasok na dayuhan ay nakagawa ng krimen o nakakaranas ng personal na pagbabago sa mga sirkumstansiyang nakakaapekto sa kaangkupan.)

**Q: Kailangan bang magpakita ang mga tao ng patunay ng kanilang katayuan sa CNMI upang maging angkop para sa parole?**

**A:** Oo. Ang mga sumusunod ay maaaring isumite bilang patunay ng iyong katayuan at/o relasyon na nagbibigay ng kwalipikasyon (maaaring tanggapin ang mga kopya):

- Status Card ng Permanenteng Residente ng CNMI o Malapit na Kamag-anak
- Patunay ng katayuan ng mamamayan ng FAS
- Sertipiko ng Kasal
- Sertipiko ng kapanganakan ng anak
- Sertipiko ng kamatayan ng taong namatay
- Patunay ng iyong huling katayuan sa imigrasyon ng CNMI
- Patunay ng iyong kasalukuyang katayuan ng pangengempleo sa CNMI

**Q: May iba pa bang kailangan upang makakuha ng katayuan ng parole?**

**ON THE NET**

www.uscis.gov

**A:** Oo. Ang pagbibigay ng parole sa ilalim ng polisiyang ito ay hindi awtomatiko, ngunit papasyahan sa indibidwal na basehan. Isasaalang-alang ng USCIS ang anumang sanhi ng pagiging di-katanggap-tanggap na maaaring maging dahilan ng hindi pabor na paggamit ng pagpapasya. Ang mga aplikante para sa paggamit ng kapangyarihan ng parole na ito ay kailangang magpatunay ng katayuan ng pagiging kwalipikado bilang kasapi ng sobrang mataong grupo. Ang mga aplikante ay kailangang legal na naririto sa ilalim ng batas ng CNMI na magsisimula kaagad sa epektibong petsa ng programa ng transisyon.

**Q: Ano-ano ang mga filing fee na may kinalaman sa pagkuha ng katayuan ng parole?**

**A:** Walang filing fee (bayarin sa paghahain) upang makakuha ng parole sa CNMI sa ilalim ng programang ito. Kung ang ilang pansamantalang pinapasok na dayuhan ay humiling ng pahintulot para sa pangengempleo o mga prebilihiyo sa pagbibiyahe, kailangang maghain siya ng angkop na form ng aplikasyon. Ang kasalukuyang filing fee ay $340 para sa Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization at $305 para sa Form I-131, Application for Travel Document. Maaaring alisin ng USCIS ang bayarin sa paghahain para sa Form I-765 batay sa iyong kawalang kakayahan na magbayad sa bayarin. Aalisin ng USCIS ang filing fee para sa mga aplikante sa sobrang mataong CNMI sa pamamagitan ng pagpapakita ng kahirapan sa ekonomiya na nakatutugon sa maaaring umpisa. Upang humiling na alisin ng USCIS ang bayarin, maglakip ng sulat kasama ang iyong Form I-765 alinsunod sa mga tagubilin sa form. Hindi maaaring alisin ang bayarin para sa Form I-131.

Ang mga kahilingang magbiyahe mula sa CNMI patungo sa ibang bahagi ng Estados Unidos at iba pang mga teritoryo nito (kabilang ang Guam) ay hindi nangangailangan ng filing fee.

**Q: Kailan ako makakapagaplay para sa katayuan ng parole?**

**A:** Maaari kang mag-aplay para sa katayuan ng parole anumang oras sa o pagkatapos ng Nobyembre 28, 2009.

**Q: Paano ipoproseso ng USCIS ang aking aplikasyon?**

**A:** Kukumpirmahin ng USCIS ang iyong katayuan, magsagawa ng pagsuri sa background, isaalang-alang ang mga sanhi ng pagiging di-katanggap-tanggap na maaaring magbigay-katwiran sa hindi pabor na paggamit ng pagpapasya at gumawa ng ibang mga function sa pagpoproseso. Kung aprobahan ng USCIS ang iyong aplikasyon, padadalhan ka ng Form I-94, Arrival and Departure Record. Kung tanggihan ang iyong aplikasyon, magpadala ang USCIS ng sulat upang abisuhan ka.

**Q: Paano ako mag-aplay para sa parole?**

**A:** Kailangang gagawa ka muna ng online na appointment upang bumisita sa USCIS Application Support Center, TSL Plaza Building, Beach Road South, Saipan, CNMI. Kailangang personal mong isumite ang kahilingan para sa parole sa isang opisyal ng imigrasyon ng USCIS sa appointment na iyon. Maaari kang gumawa ng online na appointment sa www.uscis.gov.

Sa appointment, tatanggapin ng opisyal ng imigrasyon ang aplikasyon at sasagutin ang anumang katanungan sa paghahain. Kung nag-aaplay ka para sa parole batay sa pagiging asawa ng isang mamamayan ng Freely Associated States, magsasagawa ng panayam ang opisyal ng imigrasyon sa iyo at sa iyong asawa. Habang nasa appointment, kakailanganin kang sumailalim sa fingerprinting upang simulan ang mga pagsuri sa seguridad na kailangan bago ang pag-isyu ng parole. Walang bayarin ang ipapataw para sa aplikasyon ng parole o sa fingerprinting na ito.

**Q: Ano ang kailangan kung isumite sa panahon ng aking appointment sa ASC Saipan?**

**A:** Kailangan mong isumite ang sumusunod sa iyong appointment:

- Sulat ng kahilingan na nilagdaan mo at ipinadala sa Director, USCIS District 26, Honolulu Hawaii. Maaaring itinipa o isinulat-kamay nang maayos.
- Patunay ng katayuan mula sa Petsa ng Pagsisimula ng Programa ng Transisyon (Nobyembre 28, 2009);
- Patunay ng paninirahan sa CNMI sa panahon ng aplikasyon;
- Nakompletong Form G-325, Impormasyon sa Biyograpiya;
- Apat na kinahulihang mga letrato sa uri ng pasaporte; at
- Balidong dokumentong mapagkilanlan gaya ng pasaporte o sertipiko ng kapanganakan.

**Q: Awtomatiko ba ang aking pahintulot sa trabaho kapag nabigyan ng parole?**

**A:** Hindi. Kailangang mabigyan ka muna ng parole at mag-

*See MGA on next page*

## MGA

*From Page 12*

sumite ng patunay (Form I-94) ng pagbibigay kasama ng iyong aplikasyon para sa pahintulot sa pangengempleo (Form I-765). Kung maaproba ang pahintulot sa pagtatrabaho, magiging angkop kang magtrabaho sa CNMI sa loob ng kabuuang panahon ng parole.

**Q: Maaari ba akong magtrabaho para sa sinumang employer sa CNMU gamit ang pahintulot sa pangengempleo?**

**A:** Oo. Ang pahintulot sa pangengempleo na ito ay dilimitado.

**Q: Paano akong mag-aplay para sa pahintulot sa pangengempleo?**

**A:** Kailangang maghain ka ng Aplikasyon para sa Pahintulot sa Pangengempleo o Application for Employment Authorization, Form I-765, alinsunod sa mga tagubilin sa paghahain sa mga itinalagang lokasyon na nasa mga tagubilin ng form. Ibibigay ang pahintulot sa pangengempleo sa palaking paraan nang hanggang dalawang taon.

**Q: Maaari ba akong magbiyahe patungong Guam, Hawaii, o sa U.S. Mainland gamit ang katayuan ng parole?**

**A:** Bilang parolee, maaaring maging angkop ka na magbiyahe sa ibang bahagi ng Estados Unidos at sa mga teritoryo nito. Upang humiling ng pahintulot na magbiyahe sa ibang bahagi ng Estado Unidos at/o sa isang teritoryo ng U.S., kailangang maghanda at lagdaan mo ang sulat na tumutukoy sa layunin ng pagbiyahe at ang iyong hangarin na bumalik sa CNMI. Ang sulat ay kailangang ipatungkol at ikoreo sa Field Office Director, USCIS Guam Field Office, Sirena Plaza, Suite 100 108 Hernan Cortez Avenue Hagatna, Guam 96910. Aabisuhan ka ng Field Office ng Guam, sa pamamagitan ng panulat, tungkol sa pasya sa iyong kahilingang bumiyahe.

**Q: Maaari ba akong bumiyahe sa isang dayuhang bansa at muling pumasok sa CNMI habang ako ay isang parolee?**

**A:** Maaaring maging angkop ka para sa paunang parole upang muling pumasok sa CNMI mula sa biyahe sa dayuhang bansa. Upang mag-aplay para sa paunang parole, ikoreo sa Field Office Director, USCIS Guam Field Office, Sirena Plaza, Suite 100 108 Hernan Cortez Avenue Hagatna, Guam 96910 ang Dokumento para sa Aplikasyon na Bumiyahe o Application for Travel Document, Form I-131, kasama ang bayarin at sumusuportang mga dokumento alinsunod sa mga tagubilin sa form. Aabisuhan ka ng Field Office ng Guam, sa pamamagitan ng panulat, tungkol sa pasya sa iyong kahilingan na bumiyahe. Makukuha ang karagdagang impormasyon sa mga tagubilin sa Form I-131 o mula sa ASC Saipan.

**Q: Kung maaproba akong bumiyahe sa Guam, Hawaii, o sa U.S. Mainland gamit ang katayuan ng parole, at mayroon akong Employment Authorization Document, maaari ba akong makapagtrabaho sa ibang lugar ng U.S.?**

**A:** Hindi. Hindi aaprobahan ng USCIS ang biyahe ng mga parolee ng CNMI patungo sa ibang destinasyon ng U.S. para sa layunin ng pagtira o pangengempleo. Sa ilalim ng programang ito, ang iyong EAD ay hindi kinukunsiderang balido para sa pangengempleo sa labas ng CNMI. Malalagay ka sa paglabag ng iyong mga kondisyon sa parole, at maaaring alisin mula sa Estados Unidos patungo sa iyong bansa ng pagkamamamayan kung makuha mo ang kagayang empleo.

**Q: Sa aking pagbalik sa CNMI mula sa isang dayuhang bansa, mananatili ba sa akin ang pahintulot ng pangengempleo sa CNMI?**

**A:** Oo. Ang pagbibiyahe palabas at pagbalik sa CNMI ay hindi nagpapawalang bisa sa iyong pahintulot sa pangengempleo kung patuloy mong matupad ang mga kondisyon sa parole.

**Q: Maaari ko bang i-renew ang aking parole kapag nawalan na ito ng bisa pagkatapos ng dalawang taon?**

**A:** Maaari kang humiling na i-renew (re-parole) nang hanggang sa 120 araw bago mawalan ng bisa ang iyong umiiral na panahon ng parole. Sundin ang katulad na paraan ng paghahain gaya ng naunang aplikasyon ng

*See MGA on Page 14*

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# Tests suggest 5 women raped in RP massacre

By TERESA CEROJANO
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—At least five women among 57 people massacred in an attack on an election convoy in the southern Philippines last week may have been raped, police said Thursday.

The forensic findings from the Nov. 23 carnage, blamed on a powerful clan that has ruled impoverished Maguindanao province unopposed for years, also indicated that some of the victims were mowed down with a light machine gun and others shot from a distance of only 2 feet (60 centimeters), said Arturo Cacdac, director of the police crime laboratory.

The convoy was carrying 30 journalists, their staff and the family and supporters of a local politician to file his candidacy for governor of Maguindanao, a position held by the powerful Ampatuan clan.

The politician, Esmael Mangudadatu, sent his wife and relatives to submit his papers after he had received death threats from the Amptuans. He said he thought his female family members would not be harmed.

Twenty-one of the 57 people slain were women. More than half of those killed were journalists.

The scion of the clan and a town mayor, Andal Ampatuan Jr., turned himself in last week and was charged Tuesday with multiple counts of murder. His father—the family's patriarch—and six other members also are considered suspects but have not been charged.

Troops have surrounded at least one of two sprawling Ampatuan compounds in the provincial capital of Shariff Aguak ahead of serving search and arrest warrants, which will come after a court order. It was not clear when that will happen.

Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera said she will subpoena 11 people, including the patriarch, for a preliminary investigation in Manila on Dec. 14.

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JUSTICE FOR IAN NOW!
MSU-MS ALUMNI
WE CONDEMN THE MAGUINDANAO CARNAGE!!!

AP

A man walks past streamers calling for justice to the victims of massacre Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009 in Gen. Santos City in southern Philippines.

## Massacre suspect's home raided; arms found nearby

**MANILA, Philippines**—Combined forces of the military and police raided the house of a local official from a powerful clan in Maguindanao who has been tagged as the prime suspect in the massacre in the province late November, according to a television report.

As this developed, the military have unearthed more sophisticated weapons and ammunition allegedly belonging to the Ampatuans in Barrio 3 near the Ampatuan compound in Shariff Aguak, capital of Maguindanao where diggings started Thursday following tips from residents in the area, Major Randolph Cabangbang, spokesman of the military's Eastern Mindanao Command, told the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Cabangbang said among the weapons recovered were two 90RR (recoiless rifle); one 57RR; three 60-millimeter mortar; four M60 machineguns; two 81-mm mortar; one AK47; one HK11; one 50-caliber barret; one Ultimax; one Bushmaster 5.56; two Bar assault rifles; one FAL; one M14 rifle; four 9-mm pistols, seven caliber 45 pistols and several boxes of assorted ammunition.

"Digging will continue [Friday]," he said. Thursday's diggings uncovered military uniforms and ammunition.

Friday's raid at the home of Datu Unsay Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr., currently in the custody of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) following his arrest for the murders of at least 57 people in Maguindanao on November 23, was by virtue of a search warrant issued by a local court, according to the report on GMA Network's "Unang Hirit" morning program.

## TAKE CHARGE

### How to spot a scammer and protect yourself

*Editor's Note:This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.*

**Question: I know of someone in the office who put her life savings in an investment said to guarantee a growth of 5 percent per month. Those savings were supposed to fund her only child's college education and her retirement. At first, she received checks that represented "profit" from the said investment. But later on, she heard no more from the person she was dealing with. Why do scams abound and what can we do about them?—Mandy**

**Answer:** It is unthinkable that anyone would want to take advantage of another person and take away his/her hard-earned money. But the sad fact is that scams do happen—and they happen anywhere in the world. In the U.S., a lot of people invested their savings in funds run by Bernard Madoff, hoping that they would gain a lot in the process. What happened was that they lost their life savings instead, and getting their money back looks grim at the moment.

Here in the Philippines, there are Ponzi scams as well, so called because they are named after a man named Charles Ponzi, who operated a "fund" in the U.S. in 1920. He enticed many people to invest in his fund, gave "profits" to the earlier investors using new money invested by later investors, and pocketing some of the money himself. In the end, the fund ran out of money and people were left holding the bag.

Your officemate's "investment" sounds like a Ponzi scheme, and it is unfortunate that she has fallen to this ploy by unscrupulous people. Scammers can be very smart and look like decent people, and with their fast talk and seemingly sincere faces, many people are fooled into joining their scams.

What can you do to protect yourself from getting involved in illicit scams? Be aware—of the schemes scammers use, of current scams in effect, of how scammers may present themselves to people. Here are some tips toward that end:

1. Read up on what scams were recently perpetrated and how they were done. Aside from the Ponzi scam, there is the Nigeria e-mail scam wherein someone purportedly from Nigeria with a huge amount of money that is in a frozen account asks you to open a bank account so you can help him access his money. There is yet another scam that recently victimized high society, wherein ladies were enticed to "sell" their jewelry through an agent, with the agent pawning their jewelry later on without their knowledge. Then there is the old but often repeated dugo-dugo gang trick, wherein someone calls up the househelp, says that the man or lady of the house was in an accident and needs money for hospitalization, and requests the househelp to bring money or jewelry to a designated place. Still other scams may play on the environment angle ("help save the environment; invest here") or charity angle ("donate to so and so").

2. Alert everyone in your house about scams in operation and warn them not to believe any caller selling an investment or saying that a family member got into an accident and needs money or jewelry as soon as possible. If you want to explore investing, do so by calling up investment companies and financial institutions yourself; don't deal with people who call you out of the blue.

3. Be careful where you use your e-mail password. Do not enter your password in websites of dubious character or which do not come with a security seal (you can see a padlock at the lower right hand corner of a web page for secure websites) as these may be stolen by unscrupulous persons and used for e-mail scams. There have been reports that the dugo-dugo trick has gone to cyberspace as well, victimizing people in one's contact list saved in his e-mail account. 4. Note that scams may increase during the holiday season when scammers may want to take advantage of people's generosity at this time. 5. If the terms of the proposed investment sounds too good to be true (5 percent a month guaranteed is too good to be true), back out pronto. Look at time deposit rates for a guide on how much an investment may generally earn at this time.

Should you fall for a scam and suffer a loss, report the matter immediately to the police or to the regulatory body (example: the Securities and Exchange Commission for investment companies). Give them all the details so the perpetrators of the scam may be apprehended and less people will be victimized.

There is yet another way to protect yourself—and this is also a sound investment strategy: Diversify your investments. Do not put all your money in one type of investment account, such as what your officemate did. In this way, if the investment does not earn, or is a scam, you won't have to see your entire life savings vanish into thin air. Be vigilant. Protect your hard-earned money well.

*INQUIRER.net and Citibank invite readers to ask questions regarding financial matters. Send your questions to personal_finance@inquirer.net or comment through our personal finance blog called MoneySmarts.Readers are solely responsible for their own investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from our web site.*

## MGA

*From Page 12*

parole. Ang renewal ay batay sa patuloy na kaangkupan ng dayuhan. At saka, maaaring pawalan ng bisa ng USCIS ang pagbibigay ng parole kung may dahilan na gawin ito (gaya ng kung ang pinapasok na dayuhan ay nakagawa ng krimen o nakakaranas ng personal na pagbabago sa mga sirkumstansiyang nakakaapekto sa kaangkupan.)

**Q: Maaari ko bang i-renew ang aking pahintulot sa pagtatrabaho?**

**A:** Maaari kang maghain para sa renewal o pagpapatuloy ng iyong employment authorization document (EAD) sa USCIS nang hanggang sa 120 araw bago mawalan ng bisa ang iyong umiiral na EAD, ngunit PAGKATAPOS maaprobahan ang iyong aplikasyon para sa muling pansamantalang pagpapapasok. Upang maiwasan ang paglampas sa taning ng pahintulot, humiling ng re-parole upang maproseso ng USCIS ang iyong aplikasyon at maipadala sa iyo ang bagong Form I-94.

**Q: Ang parole ba ay nagbibigay ng legal na katayuan ng permanenteng paninirahan (Green Card)?**

**A:** Hindi. Ang parole ay pansamantala at hindi nagbibigay ng anumang legal na permanenteng katayuan. Ang mga alituntunin at kondisyon ng naaprobang parole ay itatakda sa dokumento ng parole. Ang mga alituntunin at kondisyon na ito ay hindi naglalakip sa pagbibigay ng legal na katayuan ng permanenteng residente.

**Q: Kung ako ay angkop para sa parole sa ilalim ng programang ito, kailanganin ba akong mag-aplay kaagad dito sa Nobyembre, 28, 2009?**

**A:** Hindi. Ang mga dayuhan na legal na naririto sa ilalim ng batas ng CNMI sa petsa ng transisyon ay karaniwang maaaring mananatili sa loob ng panahon ng kanilang pahintulot sa CNMU, o 2 taon, alinman ang mababa, at maaaring sa maraming sitwasyon ay may patuloy na pahintulot sa pagtatrabaho para sa katulad na panahon. Sa pagkawala ng bisa ng katayuan sa CNMI o 2 taon, alinman ang unang mangyayari, kailangang makakuha ng legal na katayuan ang mga dayuhan sa ilalim ng batas sa imigrasyon ng U.S. Ang mga aplikasyon sa ilalim ng pahintulot ng parole na ito ay maaaring isang paraan kung saan ang mga dayuhan ay maaaring makakuha ng kagayang legal na katayuan. Gayon pa man, ang mga benepisyo sa imigrasyon ng U.S. sa ilalim ng parole ay hindi awtomatiko at kailangan mong mag-aplay upang makuha ang kagayang mga benepisyo. Maaaring maging angkop ka sa katayuan ng imigrante o di-imigrante sa ilalim ng Immigration & Nationality Act. Kaya, maaari mong piliing hindi mag-aplay para sa parole na ito kahit na ikaw ay angkop para rito.

**Q: Kung bibigyan ako ng parole sa ilalim ng programang ito, mawawala ba sa akin ang patuloy na pahintulot sa pangengempleo nang hanggang sa dalawang taon pagkatapos ng Nobyembre 28, 2009, sa ilalim ng CNRA?**

**A:** Hindi, maaari kang magpatuloy sa ilalim ng iyong pahintulot sa CNRA kung bibigyan ka ng parole, nang hindi na mag-aplay para sa isang Employment Authorization Document (EAD). Gayon pa man, kailangan mo ng isang EAD upang makapagtrabaho pagkatapos ng Nobyembre 28, 2011 (o sa petsa nang pagkawala ng bisa ng iyong pahintulot ng CNRA, kung mas maaga), o magtrabaho sa anumang empleo na labas sa saklaw ng pahintulot na iyon.

**Q: Ang ibig bang sabihin nito ay walang ibang dayuhan sa CNMI ang pansamantalang papasukin?**

**A:** Hindi. Pinasyahan ng USCIS na ang parole ay maaaring maaprobahan sa angkop na mga dayuhan sa partikular na mga grupong ito sa panahong ito. Ang USCIS at iba pang mga ahensiya ng imigrasyon ng DHS ay maaaring gagamit sa kapangyarihan ng parole sa ibang sitwasyon sa pamamagitan ng indibidwal na basehan gaya ng maaaring angkop.

**Q: Tungkol naman sa mga aplikante ng parole mula sa Tinian at Rota?**

**A:** Ikokoreo ng lahat ng aplikante ang mga aplikasyon sa katulad na address, gaya ng tinukoy sa mga tagubilin para sa katugon na form. Maaaring ikunsidera ng USCIS ang paminsang-minsang pagbiyahe sa Tinian at Rota sa hinaharap kung lilitaw ang pangangailangan para sa pag-isyu ng parole at biometrics, gayon pa man, walang kasalukuyang plano upang ihandog ang serbisyong ito. Ang parole ay nangangailangan ng personal na pagdalo, kaya ang mga aplikante mula sa Tinian at Rota ay kailangang magplano na magbiyahe sa Saipan para sa layuning iyon.

*Source: USCIS*

# Maharlika – PinoyStyle

# Ex-beauty queen, actress nabbed for drugs

By ABIGAIL KWOK
INQUIRER.NET

**MANILA, Philippines**—A former beauty queen and actress was arrested by anti-narcotics agents for alleged illegal possession of drugs and drug peddling in Mandaluyong City, the police chief said Friday.

In a phone interview, Senior Superintendent Carlos de Sagun said Aurora Sevilla was reportedly caught selling some 0.5 grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) worth P1,000 to a certain Rodney Chuidian at the boundary of Sta. Ana, Manila and Mandaluyong around 10 p.m. Thursday.

Police also found in Sevilla's possession another 0.2 grams of shabu worth P200, de Sagun said.

However, the former actress denied and claimed that she was merely going to the nearby casino in the area, even after she was positively identified by Chuidian.

Chuidian was also arrested and he and Sevilla are both facing charges for violation of Republic Act 9165 or the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Both are now detained at the Mandaluyong City police.

De Sagun said this was not the first time that Sevilla was arrested for drug peddling.

Sevilla was crowned Mutya ng Pilipinas in 1984. She entered the entertainment industry and starred opposite several action stars.

# No wedding? It's OK—Dolphy

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Comedy King Dolphy said he has come to accept the likelihood that he and singer-actress Zsazsa Padilla, his partner of over 20 years (and with whom he has two daughters), may never get to tie the knot.

At 16, Zsazsa married dentist Modesto Tatlonghari, whom she lived with for seven years. They have a daughter, singer-actress Karylle. In 1990, Zsazsa eloped with Dolphy, 36 years her senior. They have two kids, Nicole and Zia.

Dolphy has come to accept the likelihood that he and singer-actress Zsazsa Padillamay never get to tie the knot.

In 2003, Zsazsa filed for annulment, which hit a big snag early this year.

"I don't think there's anything we can do about it now," Dolphy said during a media gathering for his latest movie "Nobody, Nobody... But Juan," a Metro Manila Film Festival entry.

"We were set to get married; we had paid the first $25,000 for the venue," the award-wining actor added. "I guess it's not meant to happen. We've discussed this. What's important now is that we're still together."

### Closer family

Dolphy is thankful that his relationship with Karylle has greatly improved. He said Karylle has also grown close to her half-siblings. "Karylle visits us whenever she's free," Dolphy said.

With the presidential elections underway, the actor is being extremely cautious. "I don't think I will endorse anyone this time.

(At press time, however, he had reportedly agreed to join a campaign rally for presidential aspirant Sen. Manny Villar and running mate Sen. Loren Legarda.)

Dolphy said he discouraged controversial "Wowowee" host Willie Revillame from running for public office: "I told him he should stick to hosting, for now."

## *Directing dad*

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—Eric Quizon directs his famous dad, Dolphy, in the film "Nobody, Nobody … But Juan," about a homesick old man living in the United States.

Eric says he sees nothing wrong with American children leaving their parents in facilities for the elderly.

Quizon

"I think it's better to put beloved elders in a place where they can be better cared for. If you're in America and you're working, it's the most practical setup. As much as you'd want to be by their side all the time, you have to work to survive," Eric told Inquirer Entertainment during a media gathering recently. "On the other hand, imagine if you're 70 and you're alone at home … At least when you're in a facility, you have people to socialize with; May kalaro ka ng bingo."

In the film, Juan (Dolphy) lives in a nursing home in Chicago. To entertain himself, he watches "Wowowee" on The Filipino Channel. His love for the show rubs off on his friends in the nursing home, much to the chagrin of Juan's strict son (Eric) who runs the nursing home. It is Juan's wish that, through "Wowowee," he could reconnect with his loved ones in the Philippines, especially his first love, Aida (Gloria Romero), whom he lost touch with during the World War II.

**What was it like working as your dad's director?**

I discovered that my dad is still very sharp. For someone who's 81, he is still able to effectively deliver his lines. Tita Glo told me how brilliant my dad was when they were younger.

**How did you come up with the story?**

It started with an idea from my friend Joe Aldeguer. I was visiting my mom in San Francisco when Joe called. He said he watched "Slumdog Millionare" and was very inspired by it.

**Is it tougher to work with your dad, compared to other actors?**

Not at all. He's one of the easiest actors to work with. We collaborate a lot. I've worked with people who were not of dad's stature, pero mas maarte pa sila.

**What do you like most about making festival movies with your dad?**

Like Dad, I have a very good track record when it comes to festival films. I won Best Actor award for "Juan Tamad" and "Crying Ladies." "Markova" won for Epy (Quizon, his brother) an award at the Brussels International Film Festival. "Mano Po," "Home Along Da River" and "Happy Together" were top-grossers. But making a festival entry is more difficult compared to regular films because you have a deadline. Maraming requirements.

"Nobody, Nobody But … Juan," an official entry to the 2009 Metro Manila Film Festival. It is written by Bibeth Orteza and produced by Kaizz Ventures with RVQ Productions, and also features Eugene Domingo, Heart Evangelista, Eddie Garcia, Willie Revillame and G Toengi.

# Nadia's heart goes out to Lot

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—Nadia Montenegro's heart goes out to her best friend, Lotlot de Leon, who flew to the United States for a much-needed break.

"It's so unfair that nasty rumors are circulating about Lot while she's abroad and can't defend herself," Nadia laments. "She left for New York on Sept. 27 with a heavy heart, yet hopeful about starting over. She has been struggling all these years while taking care of her kids. Finally, she gets a chance to do something for herself and reunite with her mom (Nora Aunor) after more than five years. She's not pregnant. Ngayon lang niya nabuo pagkatao niya; sana 'wag namang sirain."

Being Lot's kinakapatid, I feel her pain. Let's give her the space and time she needs to find happiness again. Sometimes, we have to get lost in order to find our way.

■■■

Baron Geisler went on detox for six weeks. "I'm way past it," he beams. "Boxing and lifting are the key."

Is it true that he married his girlfriend, Rachel Stepheneson, who's based in Australia? "Nagiipon pa ako bago ako mag-propose," he says. "But I've given her a promise ring. I believe she's the one."

■■■

Charlene Gonzales has fond memories of her late great dad, Bernard Bonin: "He was a God-fearing, simple, kind-hearted man. My last memory of him is during my sister France's wedding. I didn't realize that it would be the last time we would talk. Shortly after, he was brought to the hospital and could no longer talk. During the wedding, we kept telling each other how much we loved one another. I remember the smile on his face because my sis married a kind man. It was a smile of contentment, as he saw all his children were in good hands. We were crying and holding each other's hands as we expressed our love. During his last days, most of us siblings were at his bedside."

# Chinese role becomes the Mega

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

It took two hours and a half to transform singer-actress Sharon Cuneta into a Filipino-Chinese for Joel Lamangan's "Mano Po 6: A Mother's Love," an entry in this month's Metro Manila Film Festival.

Makeup artist Fanny Serrano experimented on several styles for the actress, also known as the "Megastar" in local show biz.

Cuneta

"We wanted an authentic look," Sharon told Inquirer two months ago, on the first shooting day in a five-star hotel.

She went on a shopping spree at the Shanghai Tang boutique in Hong Kong last August. "I've always loved the store, but knowing that I am buying costumes for a movie made it more exciting," she said.

Sharon bought a few throws and wraps, but confessed that she had bought silk robes and pajamas there in the past.

"I adore all things Chinese," she said. "There was a two-year period when I was fixated on the Cultural Revolution. All my books were on Mao Tse Tung."

Among her other favorite books are Jung Chang's "Wild Swans," Amy Tan's "The Joy Luck Club" and Adeline Yen Mah's "Falling Leaves."

"I actually planned on studying Mandarin," she said. "But in this movie, I get to try Fookien."

She has an extensive collection of Chinese movies in her DVD library, from revered classics starring Gong Li to chop-socky fare top-billed by Jet Li.

"But my one true love is Bruce Lee," Sharon said. "I was probably the only 7-year-old student in St. Paul's who mourned Bruce Lee's death in 1973."

Sharon, who once recorded a duet ("In Your Eyes") with Cantopop superstar Andy Lau, surely tapped into her romance with Oriental culture in playing her role as a Fil-Chinese matriarch in the sixth installment of the "Mano Po" franchise.

In a key scene shot in a Chinese temple in Quezon City, she took pains to learn the rituals from real-life monks: "I learned to pray their way, complete with joss sticks and hand movements, on my knees," she recounted.

When cast and crew shot a scene in Beijing last month, first thing on her mind was to visit the Forbidden City—never mind the freezing weather. "I had to see the place I so loved in 'The Last Emperor,'" she explained.


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# Maharlika – Opinyon

## Make time

It's "whipping a dead horse," says Miriam Defensor-Santiago, despite signing the Senate call to impeach GMA. "Congress will be taken up with the budget hearings and our conference committees, and it will be the start of the campaign period. [Besides, GMA] is stepping out of office."

It's too little, too late, says Prospero Nograles. There's no more time, even if Congress has a mind to take it up. The chances of the impeachment prospering, he laughs, are either slim or nil.

Well, first off, Nograles mistakes his own call for the charter to be changed with that of Richard Gordon's call for the Clinger to be impeached. The chances of the first are truly only either slim or nil for reasons that have nothing to do with time. He attempts it and this country will not have an election, it will have a revolution. Nograles himself will have all the time in the world to appreciate the meaning of time after GMA's time is up and he is forced into retirement by losing his next election bid.

But Gordon has been a revelation. Clearly, his move is a little too late to do him much good in getting him poised for higher office. Who knows? Maybe he has been struck by light on his own way to Damascus. Of course it doesn't hurt that GMA has been much debilitated of late by the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune that have been flying her way from all sides. But maybe Gordon is doing this because he truly believes it's never too late to prove that no one is above the law—even in this country. Whether that is so or not, the Grand Old Dick, as Nene Pimentel calls him, has at least already proven the wisdom of the adage: It's not how big it is (the Senate blue ribbon committee), it's how you use it.

As priority goes, what can be more important than finding out whether your head of state is a crook or not? You can talk budget till you're blue in the face, but none of it is going to matter if you don't know where the money will go. And what's the point of having conference committees if you are not going to act on the recommendations of the conference committees anyway?

The proposition that impeaching Gloria will distract from or obstruct the elections is nonsense. Nothing will assist the elections more. Nothing will make the elections more meaningful. It should bring to Philippine elections the one thing they have not had since the snap elections. That is morality. That is right and wrong. That is the tenet so central to democracy that expedience may never take the place of principle, convenience may never take the place of truth, advancement may never take the place of justice. A country never advances without justice anyway. A country never advances without truth and principle anyway. Only thievery does.

**There's The Rub**

**By CONRADO DE QUIROS**

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The GMA impeachment, particularly where it is brought to the public via television like the Erap one, should be educational in the extreme. It's not merely that the Erap impeachment became so popular it made talking like a lawyer a national pasttime—you know that because it became the stuff of sitcom—it is that it was so inspiring it made people realize once again that the law had something to do with justice. The connection had been lost over the years, the public in fact seeing lawyers as people who quoted the law to divert, avert and pervert justice. Suddenly, a whole generation wanted to become lawyers, and not just so they could work for The Firm.

GMA is impeached and nothing could bear more wonderfully, magically and miraculously on elections. It should show voters, beyond what any presidential candidate can do, the kind of ruler we can do without. It should show voters, beyond what any voter education can do, the kind of leader we do not want.

It should restore the proper meaning to "executive privilege" by making the only true executives, or executors, or executioners of this country, the people, feel privileged to live in this country.

Impeaching Gloria should drive home a vital message that was lost by the jailing of Erap. There is nothing wrong with jailing Erap; there is everything wrong with Gloria jailing Erap. There is nothing wrong with hanging Saddam; there is everything wrong with the US hanging Saddam. Jailing Erap is justice; Gloria jailing Erap is laughable. Hanging Saddam is justice; the US hanging Saddam is execrable. Impeach Gloria and you give a cautionary tale to the candidates: You steal, and however hard it takes, you will be found out. You steal, and however long it takes, you will pay.

Even if GMA were truly stepping down, what of it? There are no statutes of limitations on the rape of the nation. Why should one's sins be expunged just because one is near to leaving public office? It is never too late to do what is right. It is never too late to right wrongs, to give justice to the oppressed. Anytime is a good time to impart a lesson in good governance to those who have been ruled badly.

And who says GMA is stepping down? Lest we forget her biggest crime is not stealing billions of pesos, it is stealing millions of votes. What she did then, she can do now. The theft of the vote remains a real threat with Smartmatic, which could result either in an engineered successor or a failure of elections. Emergency rule remains a grave and present danger, especially if the bombings in the northern metropolis and the war in the southern hinterlands should suddenly and mysteriously escalate, which could result in never-ending inglourious and basterdly rule.

Impeach Gloria and she'll be too busy defending herself in the Senate-turned impeachment court to mount an offensive or continue to offend human sight. Impeach Gloria and we can have a worry-free election. Impeach Gloria and we can have some peace.

There's no more time?

Make freaking time.

EDITORIAL

## A woman possessed

A week before she delivered her 2007 State of the Nation Address, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was asked what her political plans for 2010 would be. She smirked and coyly quipped, "Who knows? I may run for Congress in my hometown."

The answer finally came, after a week of increasingly crude flirtation with the question, on Bonifacio Day when she finally announced she was submitting to the highly-organized, yet supposedly independent and spontaneous, clamor of her provincemates for her to represent them in the House of Representatives.

History may eventually characterize Ms Arroyo's political leadership as dedicated not to relentlessly pursuing specific goals, but assiduously courting every opportunity to expand her options. We will take this question up soon enough, but for now the country must confront the unprecedented desire of the President to remain a political player, even if it means running for an inferior position, something no previous president who had to leave office ever considered a viable option. Corazon Aquino and Fidel V. Ramos, among our single-term presidents, could both rely on enough public good will to contemplate an untroubled retirement. Ms Arroyo, on the other hand, cannot afford to relinquish power entirely and so must find an office to which she can hope to be elected.

We do not doubt that many of her provincemates will vote for her out of ethnic loyalty. We do not doubt winning a seat in the House is much easier for her than to seek either the vice presidency or a seat in the Senate. We do not doubt that she has no compunction about ditching the concept of delicadeza because such old-fashioned notions of official propriety have been alien to her during the whole of her public career. And so we doubt if appealing to her sense of history or her sense of propriety will convince her to relinquish office now, so as to avoid tainting her last months in office with suspicions that she either ignored national problems in her obsessive pursuit of a congressional seat, or that she trusted her provincemates so little that she needed the full power and resources of the presidency to secure a seat already unimpressively held by her older son.

But we do know that if the President had any decency, respect for her office, and concern for the possibility of a slightly improved legacy, she would relinquish office now, to concentrate on her bid for the House. We also know the central preoccupation of her presidency has been power with impunity, and for this reason she will relentlessly pursue expanding her limited options with her own security and impunity past 2010 in mind. She has avoided accountability up to now, and she will try to avoid accountability for as long as she lives. There remain those who will continue to uphold her in this and all her future efforts, whether out of mercenary or simply, cynical, motives, so long as she remains what she is: a living reproach to the ethics and values the rest of the country holds dear. She is a woman possessed.

© Philippine Daily Inquirer

## Luna's murder remains unsolved

When I wrote about the contents of Antonio Luna's bags at the time of his assassination by Emilio Aguinaldo's Caviteno bodyguards in 1899, I thought readers would be bored and flip to the next page. I was surprised by the e-mail response concerning the use of Boric acid. I didn't know what Luna used this for and presumed it was mixed with water and used as mouthwash. One reader suggested that it was used as a deodorant similar to tawas. Another theory was that Luna was probably afflicted by "crotch rot" from his non-absorbent underwear and Boric acid was used to treat this rather embarrassing ailment. Fortunately many readers, starting with CCP chair Emily Abrera, remembered or have heard about Boric acid being used as eyewash.

Antonio Luna's traveling bags contained about a dozen books. It is unfortunate that the illiterate person who made the inventory did not list down the titles because this would have provided us with the general's bed-side reading.

**Looking Back**

**By AMBETH OCAMPO**

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

There was an empty leather portfolio listed in the inventory and we will never know if it was empty at the time of Luna's death or was emptied soon after. Did this contain important papers? Did this contain the funds of the Revolution that the late Ric Manapat claimed was entrusted to a certain Ysidra Cojuangco and became the foundation of that great Tarlac fortune.

Anyone who has browsed through the mass of documents known as the "Philippine Insurgent Records" in the National Library will realize that the Aguinaldo government (or perhaps this was Apolinario Mabini's influence) was very careful about records. If personal effects such as Boric acid and curling irons in Luna's bags were listed down, surely more detailed records were kept regarding funds and assets. If Luna really entrusted the funds of the war to Ysidra Cojuangco, documentation will be found some day.

Luna's bags contained 32 small boxes of cartridges, but where were his weapons? These were probably on his person at the time he was murdered and entrusted to Gen. Jose Alejandrino who said these included: one rifle, one Mauser, one espadin (either a dress sword or a rapier), ammunition and binoculars.

We do not know what these weapons looked like, but they are not as fashionable as those found on Gen. Gregorio del Pilar which included a silver whistle (formerly kept in the National Museum), and a gold-plated revolver (presently unlocated).

En route to Calumpit from San Fernando on March 31, 1899 Luna took out pen and paper and wrote out a short last will and testament that reads: "First, I leave whatever I have to my mother. Second, if they kill me, wrap me in a Filipino flag with all the clothing with which I was dressed when killed, and bury me in the ground. Third, I wish to state freely that I would die willingly for my country, for our independence without hereby looking for death."

We are familiar with this tragic story as recounted in history books. Luna received a telegram summoning him to a meeting with Aguinaldo in Cabanatuan. When he arrived there he was told that the president had gone to San Isidro. He decided to wait it out but saw Cavite soldiers he had disarmed for insubordination back in active service. He asked who had reinstated them without his knowledge and approval, and they pointed to the second floor of the house that served as Aguinaldo's headquarters. While pacing impatiently in the house, Luna heard a shot from underneath the building so he went down to investigate. In the diary of Gen. Venancio Concepcion, it is recorded:

"Before he was able to clear the last step of the stairs, he received a deadly cut with a bolo on the back, and simultaneously all the soldiers present there, some with their rifles, while others with bolos, continued wounding him, until [he] fell dead, with more than 30 wounds inflicted by firearms and steel weapons.

"It is assured by many that Luna expired uttering these words, 'Cobardes, asesinos! [Cowards, murderers!]' and that after Luna had died, an old woman [according to some she was Aguinaldo's mother] peeped [out from] a window in the presidential residence and in a loud voice asked those who were around the cadaver: 'Ano ba, nagalao pa iyan? [Well, is he is till moving?]'"

Luna and his aide, Paco Roman, were buried in Cabanatuan with full military honors corresponding to their rank. In 1902 or 1903, Luna's body was exhumed by a certain Antonio Jimenez who described the remains as follows:

"I saw in the cranium two marks of two wounds inflicted with a bolo, one towards the posterior part two inches long, and the other towards the front which destroyed the cavity wherein was found the left eye. There were also two wounds more in the bones of the right arm that were well marked. I have also seen several holes in the cranium that possibly were the effects of bullets from a gun."

Luna's bones were entrusted to his brother Jose and have never been seen or heard of since. Forensic doctors are solving more celebrated deaths like Napoleon's or King Tut's but Luna's will remain on a long list of unsolved political murders. We may know how he was killed, but we will never really know why. How come the soldiers who did him in were neither investigated nor punished? Who was ultimately responsible?

*Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.*

# Maharlika – Samu't Sari

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday Grandma Patricia A. Reyes! Hope you enjoy your special day and may you have many more birthdays to come! Loving you much, from your lil' rugrats Loutricia, JayBoy, Boom, Kiri, Keo, Louie Boy, LRock and Luther.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## NMC SCHOLARS

The four NMC students who were recently awarded $2,200 each by the First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business* Businesswoman of the Year Scholarship pose while waiting for the awarding rites Wednesday. They are Roxanne Ferrer, Ashley Sikayun, Frances Santos-Hofschneider, and Ann Julia Padilla.

MONETH DEPOSA

## TOURISM CAUCUS

Members of the Japan-Marianas Tourism Club meet with the Marianas Visitors Authority on Nov. 30, 2009, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan to discuss the Northern Mariana Islands' primary market updates, sales projections, air service, and tourism promotions for 2010. The MVA also briefed JMTC on changes to new federal immigration requirements that took effect on Nov. 28, 2009. Comprised of major tour agencies and airlines, JMTC is chaired by Nobuyasu Kanamaru of Pacific Micronesia Tours. Pictured are, seated from left, MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, Kanamaru, CNMI Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, and other members of JMTC and the MVA.

MVA

## WUSHIN DONATION

Wushin Corp. donates cash amounting to $1,200 to the Aging Center on Nov. 24, 2009, as its yearly donation to the center. The center also awarded Wushin Corp. a letter of appreciation. Picture shows, from left, Jun Patawaran, Wushin Corp.'s operations supervisor; Rose Mondala of the Aging Center, and Walter Manglona, Aging Center coordinator.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## MARIANAS AGUPA TEAM

The Marianas Agupa Team, from left to right, Thomas D. Mendiola of Rota, former senator David Cing of Tinian, and Marianas Agupa host Glenn H. Manglona. Marianas Agupa, a Chamorro talk show, will feature Census manager John Borja, in today's program, Dec. 5, 2009, from 9:30am to 10:15am on Magic 100.3 FM. Borja will be discussing the job opportunities and job fair this weekend. Vicente N. Santos, former vice chairman of the Northern Marianas Political Status Commission, will also be a featured guest today to discuss key issues of the Covenant, the implication of the federal lawsuit that the CNMI lost in federal court, and the chances of renegotiating the relationship with United States. Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Hannah P. Palacios, Student of the Month of Kagman Elementary School for the month of November 2009. With special thanks to her dedicated teachers and school administrators, and for the support of her sisters and our families. Message comes from her loving parents, Frank I. and Claudia P. Palacios.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## BALLET STARS

Ballet dancers from Russia, Japan and South Korea pose with Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts president Dr. Gene Sylvester Eagle-Oden, leftmost, and creative director and choreographer Anna E. Glushko, rightmost, during a rehearsal Wednesday afternoon for the Dec. 4, 5 and 6 performance called "Sleeping Beauty and Concert of Ballet Stars," at The Palms Resort in San Roque. The six were joined by four other ballet dancers from Japan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

# YoungStyle

# Toys to keep kids moving and improving

By MARI-JANE WILLIAMS
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

With childhood obesity rates nearly tripling in the past 30 years, many parents are wondering what they can do to inspire their kids to be more active, especially during the winter.

So while making gift lists, consider toys that will get children off the couch and on their way toward the 60 minutes of daily physical play that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends.

We asked the following experts to suggest toys to get kids moving: Elisa Mintz Delia of Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, Kristen Masci of Skills on the Hill in Washington, Marc Sickel of Fitness for Health in Rockville, Md., Suzan Syron of the Children's Therapy Center in Springfield, Va., and Marianne Szymanski of the independent research company Toy Tips. Consider this a list to motivate the listless.

**Cranium Hullabaloo.** Sharpen listening as well as motor skills with the game that comes with pads of different shapes, colors and themes that you scatter around the room. A voice module then calls out instructions (spin to a musical instrument, for example) and tells you to freeze when the round is over. Age 4 and older. $31.50 at Toys "R" Us. www.toysrus.com.

THE WASHINGTON POST
RipStik Caster Board. Looks like a skateboard–rides like a surfboard. See story for details.

**RipStik Caster Board.** Looks like a skateboard—rides like a surfboard. The two-wheeled board is great for balance and coordination. Age 8 and older. From $49. Visit www.ripstik.com/where-to-buy to find a retailer.

**Fisher-Price roller skates.** Perfect for beginners because the wheels have a lock that allows only forward motion. Over time and with experience, you can adjust the skate to a free-rolling wheel. Age 2 and older. $25 at Toys "R" Us. www.toysrus.com.

**BeamO.** Think Frisbee, but on a larger, safe-for-inside scale. This foam hoop is 30 inches in diameter and can be tossed around indoors or out. Age 6 and older. $14-$25. Visit www.beamo.com to find a retailer.

**Deluxe Moon Shoes.** Channel your inner astronaut with footplates that stand eight inches off the ground. Elastic strips can be adjusted to change the amount of stability. Younger children can use them to practice standing balance and jumping in place, while older kids can walk or jump forward. Ages 7 to 11. $20 at Toys "R" Us. www.toysrus.com.

**Balance Board.** Kids age 6 and older can test their skills on this toy that promotes development of balance by increasing trunk strength and improving posture. $60 at www.backtobasicstoys.com.

**Playskool Sit N Spin.** This longtime favorite builds shoulder strength and the stability needed for fine and visual motor skill development. Who can resist spinning until you feel sick? Ages 18 months to 5 years. $22 at Target. www.target.com.

**Cat in the Hat-I Can Do That.** Dr. Seuss' crazy cat comes to your house. Challenges include jumping up and down while holding a fish under your chin, among other silly adventures. Ages 4 to 8. $20 at Target. www.target.com.

**Elefun.** A motorized elephant spews butterflies from its trunk while you run around armed with a net to capture them. Promotes social activity, laughter and early cleanup skills. Age 3 and older. $13.90 at Target. www.target.com.

THE WASHINGTON POST
Elefun. A motorized elephant spews butterflies from its trunk while you run around armed with a net to capture them. See story for details.

# Hurricane season not too bad this year

By DAN STILLMAN
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

**WASHINGTON**—The 2009 Atlantic hurricane season officially ended Monday. If you're saying, "Gee, I didn't hear much about hurricanes this year," you'd be right.

The nine named storms were only one short of the 10 seen in an average season. (A storm is named if it becomes a tropical storm, which means winds of at least 39 mph.) But only three became hurricanes (74-mph winds or stronger) compared with six in an average season. Last year there were 16 named storms and eight hurricanes.

Another measure of this year's hurricane season is the "accumulated cyclone energy," or ACE for short. ACE is based on the number of storms, how strong they are and how long they last. This year's ACE for the Atlantic was 52. The average is 106, and last year's ACE was 145, or almost three times as big as this year's.

Here's one more statistic: The total number of flights by the National Hurricane Center for the 2009 hurricane season was 38. Last year there were 169 flights. The average number of flights per year from 2004 to 2008 was 130. The hurricane center flies aircraft into storms to gather data. Forecasters and scientists use the data to improve forecasts of hurricanes and study how they work.

Most of this year's storms had little impact on land or people. An exception was Ida, the only storm to form during the final seven weeks of the season.

Ida made landfall as a tropical storm on Nov. 10 along the Gulf Coast, causing mostly minor flooding. The remnants of Ida turned into a large storm that resulted in flooding rains and fierce winds for parts of the East Coast, including Virginia.

So why was 2009 such a quiet hurricane season?

Experts think El Nnno helped to limit the number of hurricanes this year. El Nino is the periodic warming of waters in the Pacific Ocean along the equator. It leads to winds over the Atlantic Ocean that change direction and speed with height. Such winds tend to rip storms apart, or prevent them from forming in the first place.

Now that the 2009 hurricane season is over, we can look forward to next year. The first named storm in 2010 will be Alex. Is your name on the 2010 list? Go to www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutnames.shtml to find out, but ask your parents first.

The author is lead meteorologist for washingtonpost.com's Capital Weather Gang.

# With perfect records, which team is best?

By FRED BOWEN
*Special to* The Washington Post

*Bowen is the author of sports novels for kids. His two newest books, "*Touchdown Trouble*" and "*Soccer Team Upset*," were published in August.*

College football has a math problem.

Right now there are six undefeated teams — Florida, Alabama, Texas, Texas Christian University (TCU), Cincinnati and Boise State. But only two can play in the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) national championship game in Pasadena, Calif., on Jan. 7. And as any kid who takes math knows: Six doesn't go into two.

Of course, all six of the top-ranked teams won't stay undefeated. Under the BCS system, teams are ranked according to a confusing combination of polls and computer calculations. Number 1-ranked Florida (12 wins, 0 losses) plays Number 2-ranked Alabama (also 12-0) in the Southeastern Conference championship game on Saturday. So one of those teams will fall from the ranks of the unbeaten. If Number 3-ranked Texas (12-0) beats Nebraska (9-3) in the Big 12 title game on Saturday, chances are that the Texas Longhorns will play the winner of the Florida/Alabama game for the national crown.

But wait a minute. What about the other undefeated teams? Don't they deserve a chance to play in the big game? All a team can do is to beat the teams on their schedule.

Number 4-ranked TCU (12-0) won the Mountain West conference and beat six teams with winning records including two teams ranked in the top 25. The high-scoring Horned Frogs—isn't that a cool nickname for a team — won their 12 games by an average of more than 28 points a game.

Number 5-ranked Cincinnati (11-0) still has a tough game remaining against Pittsburgh (9-2). But if the Bearcats can beat the Panthers, shouldn't they be in the championship game? Cincinnati is the top team in the Big East conference and beat six teams with winning records.

Finally, there's Boise State (12-0). Many people say the Broncos have an easier schedule than the other top teams, but they beat Number 7-ranked Oregon (9-2). They also have sophomore quarterback, Kellen Moore, who has thrown for 38 touchdowns this season while giving up only three interceptions.

It seems to me that Florida, Alabama and Texas are ranked higher than TCU, Cincinnati and Boise State because the writers and coaches voting in the polls "say."

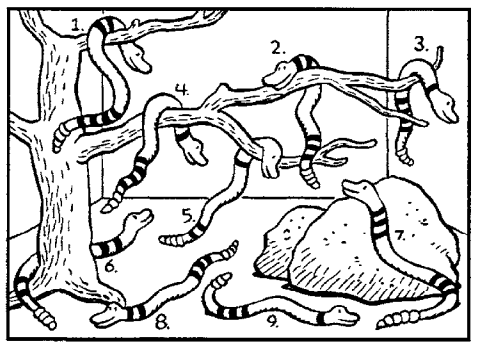
they are better. But if the teams are undefeated and don't play each other during the season or in a national playoff system, how does anyone know for sure which is the best team? I think college football needs a playoff system. The champions of the eight biggest football conferences should play each other in an eight team tournament. That way TCU, Cincinnati and Boise State would have a fair chance to prove they are better than the higher-ranked teams.

This Saturday, under the BCS system, the teams for the five big BCS bowl games will be announced. Two teams will play for the national championship on Jan. 7. And the winner of that game will be the national champion.

The only problem is that the BCS champion may not be the best team.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL FACT

NCAA and NFL footballs are the same size, but college footballs have two white stripes. ***(The Washington Post)***



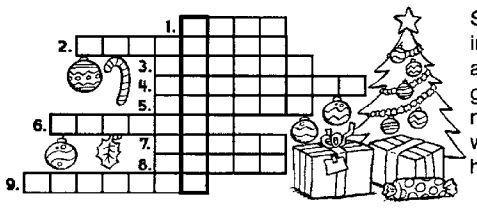
**SNAKES ALIVE!** Two of the above slinky serpents are exactly alike. Can you find them in 30 seconds?

Answer: Snakes 2 and 8.

# Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

**THE BIG DAY IS ALMOST HERE!**



Illustrated by David Coulson

Soon Santa will be racing the morning sun around the world. In our grid, we have room for nine words associated with Santa. The following hints should help:

1. Santa goes up the chimney when he lays his finger next to his ...?
2. Santa's other name.
3. Santa would never go to his house.
4. Santa's presents end up here.
5. Santa's physical description.
6. Santa's most important helper.
7. Santa's disposition.
8. Santa's associates.
9. Santa's other last name.

There is a dark frame around one of the columns in our grid. If you correctly solve the puzzle, the letters in the frame, top to bottom, will spell out Santa's last stop on Christmas Day.

Answers: 1. Nose. 2. Nicholas. 3. Grinch. 4. Stocking. 5. Chubby. 6. Rudolph. 7. Jolly. 8. Elves. 9. Kringle. The dark-framed column spells "North Pole."

**SEE IF YOU CAN** make this math expression correct by rearranging the nine digits to the left of the equal sign. The two new numbers can include fractions.

**1 2 3 4 + 5 6 7 8 9 = 100**

Our answer is: 47 3/6 + 52 9/18 = (47 1/2 + 52 1/2 = 100).

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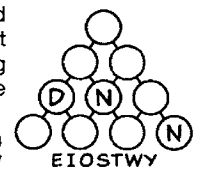
**CHAIN REACTION!** Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.




Answers: top to bottom, left to right: tidy, tide, tine, tins, tone, tons, tows, town.

# Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was American comedian Joey Adams who made the following sage observation: "If it weren't for the fact that the TV set and the refrigerator are so far apart, some of us wouldn't get any exercise at all."

■ A butterfly's sense of taste is located on its feet.

■ You know that smoking is hazardous to your health, but you might not realize all the different types of damage it can do. For instance, a shop in Great Britain required more than $400,000 in repairs to its roof due to a fire from a cigarette. A fire from an inadequately extinguished butt isn't at all unusual, but in this case it wasn't because the owner—or any other person—was careless. It seems a sparrow that had been building its nest in the store's eaves liked to use cigarette butts. The bird evidently picked one up that was still burning, eventually setting the building alight.

■ Someone with too much time on his hands once determined that there are 293 different combinations of coins that will make change for a U.S. dollar.

■ Every year, doughnut-maker Krispy Kreme uses a whopping 1 million pounds of sprinkles on its pastries.

■ Coffee is one of the most-traded commodities on earth, second only to oil.

• If you, like many others, are trying to figure out how to meet that special someone, you might want to reconsider the use of personal ads. Those who study such things claim that approximately 35 percent of people who use personal ads for dating are already married.

■ The shortest complete sentence in the English language is "Go."

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "My way of joking is to tell the truth. It is the funniest joke in the world."—George Bernard Shaw

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## MAGIC MAZE ● THINGS TAXED

C P N L J S H F D B N D Y X N
V I T O C C A B O T O E R P O
O M M S K I G L S S B D E D I
B Z X P T W U T E E R D Y R T
Q I O N O F L N T S A A T L P
J I N H E R I T A N C E R O M
I G F C D L T G T E C U E H U
P A Y R O L L S S C A L P O S
Y X W S V M T S E I R A O C N
P O A N L K E J I L G V R L O
F G E S N I A G L A T I P A C

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alcohol | Estates | Income | Property |
| Capital gains | Gasoline | Inheritance | Sales |
| Carbon | Gifts | Licenses | Value added |
| Consumption | Imports | Payroll | |

## GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

**DIFFICULTY: ★★★**

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | x | | + | | 16 |
| + | | + | | ÷ | |
| | ÷ | | + | | 6 |
| x | | x | | + | |
| | x | | – | | 1 |
| 13 | | 15 | | 7 | |

1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 9

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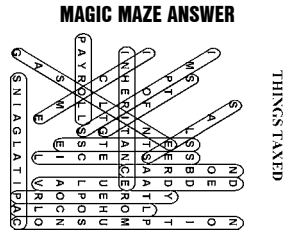
**MAGIC MAZE ANSWER**



THINGS TAXED

**GO FIGURE ANSWER**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 7 | | 15 | | 13 |
| 1 | 4 | – | 5 | x | 1 |
| | + | | x | | x |
| 6 | 3 | + | 2 | ÷ | 6 |
| | ÷ | | + | | + |
| 16 | 9 | + | 1 | x | 7 |

# Dog parks

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I am part of a group bringing a dog park to Canton, Ga. Can you tell your readers about the benefits of dog parks? Thanks.—Alessa S., Canton Paw Park Association (http://www.cantonpawpark.com )**

DEAR ALESSA: Certainly! I am definitely for dog parks—and not just in urban settings, but in suburban areas as well. Dog parks provide a place for pets to play off-leash, something that is becoming a luxury in the United States as municipal leash laws become more and more restrictive.

Providing a place for dogs to play and work off excess energy—without disturbing other members of the community—seems like a win-win situation. But surprisingly, dog parks often face opposition from the community.

The most common argument is that tax dollars shouldn't be spent on a park that will only be used by a portion of the community. Others see dog parks as additional liability for a city or town, with potential lawsuits arising from incidents with off-leash dogs. I've even heard from dog owners who have had negative experiences at dog parks, most often when their dog is attacked by another dog.

These viewpoints all merit consideration. A poorly planned and managed dog park can cause more problems than it solves, and it's always important to consider how municipal funds are spent. In the case of the Canton Paw Park Association, the dog park is funded through donations to the nonprofit group.

Paw's corner by Sam Mazzotta

Bad behavior in the off-leash park is another problem. But that is something the community of dog owners should tackle. Regulations and park rules can do only so much—simple etiquette can help reduce issues, along with dedication to standard obedience training. That's the responsibility of the individual pet owner, and it's a responsibility they have regardless of whether a dog park is available to them or not.

The dog park movement is beginning to take hold, however, and it's a trend I welcome.

■ ■ ■

*Send your tips, questions and comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.*

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# Dreidel decoration and treat container

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

During Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights, children play a traditional game with a dreidel, a four-sided Hanukkah top. You and your kids can create your own dreidel-shaped decoration to give as a party favor, arrange on a holiday table or use as a very special box for a small gift.

### Here's the stuff you need:

■ 1 half-pint clean and dry cardboard milk carton or a small, square box
■ Stapler
■ Tempera or acrylic paints
■ Markers and pencil
■ Decorating materials such as colored tissue, foil, paper strips, glitter, fabric scraps
■ Household glue

### Here's the fun:

Place the supplies on a newspaper-covered table. If you are making the dreidel to be used as a gift box, put some tissue paper inside the milk carton or box. Then tuck the gift in the tissue paper. If you're using a milk carton, carefully staple shut the spout of the carton and paint it, covering it completely. Let dry.

Turn the carton upside down, and use the marker or paint in squeeze bottles to write a different Hebrew letter on each of the four sides. They begin the Hebrew words that mean, "a great miracle happened here."

(Go to www.holidays.net/chanukah/dreidel.html to see how to write the letters. You'll also be able to read the words to the song, hear the melody and play the game.)

Decorate the carton or box. If you're using a carton, poke a pencil through the bottom so that the decoration looks like a top. (If there is a gift inside, be sure to poke carefully!)

If you're using a box, poke the pencil all the way through it and out the other end.

■ ■ ■

*Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.*

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# Life & Style

Lambert

Favre

Gosselin

Lady Gaga

Palin

Perry

# Walters spotlights year's Most Fascinating People

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Barbara Walters thinks this year's roster of fascinating people is a little edgier, more current and less obvious than usual.

Of course, the fact that she's compiling a new list is no surprise. Airing Dec. 9 at 10 p.m. EST on ABC, "Barbara Walters Presents: The 10 Most Fascinating People of 2009" is her 17th edition.

But the choices this time, she says, "are hopefully more adventurous," in contrast to last year's, which (boasting the likes of Michael Phelps, Tom Cruise, Tina Fey, Barack Obama) seemed to come together naturally.

This year's choices were made later than usual, adds Walters—in just the past few weeks.

All but one (whose name is under wraps until the program airs) have been announced. And most of them Walters (who knows nearly everyone) admits she had never met before.

Here's Lady Gaga, an explosive young pop star who many viewers may recognize, if at all, only for her kookie onstage outfits.

"Very intelligent, serious," Walters sums up. "She walked in for the interview in a black Chanel suit."

Here's glam rocker Adam Lambert, speaking with Walters on the heels of his racy performance at ABC's American Music Awards—and getting dropped from an appearance on the same network's "Good Morning America."

"We said, 'Should we have done Adam Lambert or should we have done Taylor Swift?' And then he did this huge thing (on the awards show) and we said, 'Ah! We got the fascinating one!'"

Comedian-writer-entertainment mogul Tyler Perry is yet another one of Walter's fascinating people. But while wildly successful among black audiences, "most white people have never heard of him," she says.

She talks with mother of eight Kate Gosselin, who recently ended her TLC network reality series and is about to end her marriage to former co-star Jon Gosselin.

"Nobody hit the scales harder this year than Kate Gosselin," says Walters. "And this career is not over."

As a different way of noting Michael Jackson's impact this year, Walters' program will profile the late King of Pop's kids: Paris, Prince Michael and Prince Michael II (known as Blanket). Walters will also air excerpts from a vintage interview she conducted with Jackson.

She talks with South Carolina's first lady, Jenny Sanford, who this year suffered every married woman's nightmare: the scandalous disclosure that her husband, Gov. Mark Sanford, had cheated on her during a mysterious disappearance last summer to Argentina.

"Jenny Sanford has reacted with dignity and courage and integrity," says Walters, "and touched a chord in many women, with a little bit of a warning for men: 'Don't take me for granted.'"

Also on the roster is the irrepressible, unretiring NFL quarterback Brett Favre, now riding high with the Minnesota Vikings.

"We were thinking of maybe doing (Yankees shortstop) Derek Jeter," confides Walters, "but then we thought that was more of a New York story." What?! Get outta here! "Sorry guys," Walters laughs.

Glenn Beck, the highly popular, often incendiary radio and TV host, discusses with Walters his past struggles with alcohol addiction.

When she asks if he'd like to see Sarah Palin as a nominee for President, he says he hasn't made up his mind.

"I think she knows where the country is headed," Beck says. "Whether she has the chops to be the President of the United States—I mean really, Barbara, who does?"

But during the hour, Palin has a chance to speak for herself. The best-selling author and former governor and vice presidential candidate is also one of Walters' most fascinating people—for the second year straight.

"It's the only time we've ever done that," Walters says. But accompanying this very familiar name are other names on her list she "didn't know existed a year ago."

# Swift talks Grammy joy; Beyonce top nominee

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP MUSIC WRITER

Taylor Swift has won just about every top music award there is this year, but the possibility of winning not just one, but eight Grammys, had the 19-year-old screaming for joy as the nominations were announced.

AP
Grammy-nominated country music artist Taylor Swift poses for a photo at a hotel in the Universal City area of Los Angeles in this Nov. 5, 2008 file photo.

"I started freaking out and jumping up and down," Swift said in a telephone interview Wednesday night after learning of her nominations, which included album of the year for her sophomore CD "Fearless" and mentions for song and record of the year.

"I honestly never would have predicted this, eight nominations—I'm ecstatic, and blown away and so so thankful," the stunned country sensation said.

Swift's haul of eight nods was only second to another blonde superstar—Beyonce, who got 10. The multi-hyphenate diva, who had an amazing year even on Beyonce terms, including performing at the inauguration for President Barack Obama and the first lady and a No. 1 movie with "Obsessed," was rewarded for her fierce year. The Grammy-winner was nominated once again, this time for album of the year for her double CD, "I Am ... Sasha Fierce," song of the year for her ubiquitous anthem, "Single Ladies (Put a Ring On It)" and song of the year for "Halo," as well as other awards.

Another diva was also nominated in all three categories: Lady Gaga. The eccentric entertainer, who had five nominations overall, garnered a best album mention for her debut CD, "The Fame," while her "Poker Face" got nominations for record and song of the year. Other nominees for album of the year were the Black Eyed Peas for "The E.N.D." and Dave Matthews Band's "Big Whiskey and the Groogrux King."

The Black Eyed Peas were also nominated for record of the year for their feel-good song, "I Gotta Feeling," while the Kings of Leon were nominated for "Use Somebody." The Kings of Leon hit was also nominated for song of the year, as well as Maxwell's comeback hit, "Pretty Wings."

The Black Eyed Peas, Maxwell and Kanye West got six nominations each, while Jay-Z and DJ David Guetta got five.

The country act the Zac Brown Band was nominated for best new artist, along with R&B siren Keri Hilson, rockers MGMT, the punk duo the Ting Tings and the rock group the Silversun Pickups. The year's most popular new artist, Lady Gaga, wasn't eligible; her single "Just Dance" had been nominated last year, before she was a platinum-selling act; previous Grammy nominees can't be nominated in the category.

Recording Academy President Neil Portnow said that scenario won't likely happen again: "There will be some changes so that particular situation won't repeat itself."

Wednesday's nominations were unveiled at Club Nokia in Los Angeles as part of a prime-time CBS special. It was the second year in a row that the Recording Academy revealed a handful of its 109 nominees during a televised concert; in the past, they had been announced during a morning news conference.

# NBR names 'Up in the Air' best film of the year

AP
In this film publicity image released by Paramount, George Clooney portrays Ryan Bingham in a scene from "Up in the Air."

**NEW YORK** (AP)—"Up in the Air" was named best picture from the National Board of Review and won a total of four awards.

Directed by Jason Reitman ("Juno," "Thank You for Smoking"), the film stars George Clooney as a perpetually traveling contractor who fires people for a living. The National Board of Review, which announced its awards Thursday, also chose Clooney as best actor, an honor he shares with Morgan Freeman who plays Nelson Mandela in "Invictus."

"Up in the Air" also won best supporting actress for Anna Kendrick and best adapted screenplay, penned by Reitman and Sheldon Turner working from Walter Kirn's book of the same name.

Already an Oscar favorite, the win boosts the awards prospects of "Up in the Air." The last two NBR winners—"No Country for Old Men" and "Slumdog Millionaire"—have gone on to win best picture at the Academy Awards.

Best director went to Clint Eastwood for "Invictus," the story of Mandela's embrace of the South African national rugby team.

Carey Mulligan was chosen best actress for her lead performance in "An Education," a coming-of-age story set in 1960s London. Woody Harrelson won best supporting actor for "The Messenger." In the film, the actor plays Captain Tony Stone, who is tasked to inform the families of fallen soldiers.

Best animated film went to Pixar's "Up," an adventure about an elderly man who has always yearned for adventure and finds it when he flies away in his house with a boy who has stowed away. "The Cove," about the slaughter of dolphins in a Japanese village, won best documentary. The prison drama "A Prophet" won best foreign film.

NBR President Annie Schulhof noted the large number of films—from "The Cove" to "Up in the Air"—that reflected social conscience. The group cited "Invictus" and the documentaries "Burma VJ: Reporting from a Closed Country" and "The Most Dangerous Man in America" for its "freedom of expression" award.

Joel and Ethan Coen won best original screenplay for their script to "A Serious Man," a black comedy set in the 1960s.

# Swiss move Polanski to undisclosed site

**GENEVA** (AP)—Authorities acted to protect Roman Polanski from public attention Thursday by moving him from a Zurich area jail to an undisclosed location before his transfer to house arrest in the Swiss Alps.

Polanski was taken from the jail in Winterthur for "security reasons and personal protection," Justice Ministry spokesman Folco Galli said.

Galli declined to say where the 76-year-old director was being held. But he told The Associated Press that Polanski was still expected to be taken to his chalet in the luxury resort of Gstaad on Friday afternoon. A private security guard took up watch at the house Thursday night.

Polanski

"This doesn't change anything in principle," Galli said. "He will still be transferred tomorrow."

Polanski won't be allowed to leave his house while Switzerland decides whether to extradite him to the U.S. for having sex in 1977 with a 13-year-old girl. He will have to wear an electronic monitoring bracelet.

The main condition of his house arrest is that he is posting $4.5 million in bail.

The director of such film classics as "Rosemary's Baby," "Chinatown" and "The Pianist" has been in Swiss custody since being arrested Sept. 26 on a U.S. warrant as he arrived in Zurich to receive a lifetime achievement award at a film festival. Authorities in Los Angeles want him returned to be sentenced after 31 years as a fugitive.

## Rocker Ronnie Wood arrested for possible assault

**LONDON** (AP)—Aging rocker Ronnie Wood of the Rolling Stones was released on bail Thursday after being arrested for possible domestic assault.

Wood, known for his stinging guitar riffs and raucous private life, was picked up by police Wednesday evening near his home in Esher in southern England.

"I can confirm that there was an incident last night and that Ronnie Wood was arrested," said David Rigg, Wood's spokesman.

The arrest comes on the heels of Wood's highly publicized divorce last month. His marriage collapsed after he started dating a young Russian woman.

Police in Surrey, England, released few details about the incident, which is still under investigation. Police would not say who made the assault complaint against Wood.

Asked about Wood, police said only that a 62-year-old man from the town of Esher had been taken into custody Wednesday night on suspicion of assault in connection with a domestic incident on Claygate High Street.

Claygate High Street is a popular commercial street near Esher, an affluent town 17 miles (28 kilometers) southwest of London that was also the home of George Harrison of the Beatles.

AP
In this April 4, 2009 file photo, Ronnie Wood and Ekaterina Ivanova arrive on the red carpet for the 2009 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in Cleveland.

Locals Thursday were trying to find out what happened with Wood, one of several famous rockers from the 1960s who live in the area.

Teresa Asoli, owner of the Il Corallo restaurant, said few of the facts have come out.

"Some people came around and wanted to know what we saw," she said. "But I wasn't here when it happened so I didn't see anything."

## Steamy singer Adam Lambert still frozen out by ABC

**NEW YORK** (AP)—A week after getting dumped from "Good Morning America," glam-rocker Adam Lambert is still in hot water with ABC for his racy performance a couple of days earlier on its "American Music Awards" telecast.

Now Lambert says he's been dropped from ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live" and its "New Year's Rockin' Eve."

The network "decided not to move forward" with booking Lambert on Kimmel's Dec. 17 show, ABC said in a statement.

ABC spokeswoman Patrick Preblick said the talent lineup for the New Year's Eve special has not been announced.

Lambert addressed the two bookings on his Twitter account on Wednesday.

"Yes, sadly, friends, ABC has cancelled my appearances on Kimmel and NYE," wrote Lambert. He added, "Let's focus on being positive!"

In the meantime, all is not lost. NBC says he'll be a guest on "The Jay Leno Show" on Dec 21. And he's interviewed by Barbara Walters on her "Most Fascinating People of 2009" special—airing next Wednesday on ABC.

## ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

### Uchitel lawyer cancels press conference

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—A lawyer for a New York woman who has denied having an affair with Tiger Woods has canceled a news conference that had been scheduled for Thursday in Los Angeles. Attorney Gloria Allred says the news conference has been canceled due to what she terms unforeseen circumstances. Allred tells The Associated Press in a brief telephone interview that there will be no further statements on the matter. Allred earlier had planned to make a statement about Rachel Uchitel's relationship with Woods. Last week, the National Enquirer published a story alleging the world's No. 1 golfer had been seeing Uchitel, a New York nightclub hostess, and that they recently were together in Melbourne, where Woods competed in the Australian Masters. Uchitel denied having an affair with Woods when contacted by The Associated Press

### Oilman seen on MTV show indicted on fraud charges

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—A Kentucky oilman featured on an MTV show about lavish teenage birthday parties has been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of money laundering and securities fraud. The indictment returned Wednesday says Gary Milby, of Campbellsville, Ky., exaggerated the profitability of his oil company's drilling and used investor money on salaries, vehicles and lavish personal spending. Some of his investors have said they were angry to see him giving expensive gifts to his daughter on a 2007 episode of the television show "My Super Sweet 16." A federal judge in Tennessee previously awarded investors more than $5.6 million in civil damages from Milby. Milby's attorney declined comment on the indictment.

### Source: George Stephanopoulos offered 'GMA' job

**NEW YORK** (AP)—An executive with knowledge of the negotiations says ABC News has offered George Stephanopoulos the job of "Good Morning America" co-anchor, although ABC's political expert hasn't said he will take it. Stephanopoulos has been considered the top contender to fill Diane Sawyer's job in the morning after she takes over later this month as "World News" anchor. The executive, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the executive was not authorized to speak publicly about hiring matters, confirmed a Washington Post report that the job is Stephanopoulos' to accept or turn down. ABC would not comment on the report and a spokeswoman said Stephanopoulos was unavailable. The current host of the Sunday political talk show "This Week" would likely have to move to New York for spot on the morning show, which is considered an important profit generator for the network.

### Songwriter for Elvis' 'It's Now or Never' dies

**ENGLEWOOD, N.J.** (AP)—The songwriter behind the Elvis Presley hit "It's Now or Never" has died. A publicist for Aaron Schroeder says the 84-year-old died Tuesday. Dale Olson said Schroeder had been suffering from a form of Alzheimer's disease. Olson says Schroeder was credited with writing 2,000 songs and wrote several hits for Presley, including "Stuck on You" and "A Big Hunk O' Love." But the biggest song was "It's Now or Never." Schroeder was more than just Presley's songwriter. He was also a producer, he was credited with helping the young careers of acts like Jimi Hendrix and Barry White, and he wrote the theme song for "Scooby-Doo, Where Are You!" Survivors include his wife, Abby, and daughter Rachel.

## Daughter's party plans won't cure mom's birthday blues

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** I will be 50 next year. My daughter is determined to throw me a party, but I'm not interested in acknowledging my age. In fact, thinking about it throws me into a panic.

I realize this is my problem, but how can I make her understand that this is something I truly do not want and I won't attend? She thinks I'm joking.

49 AND HOLDING

**DEAR HOLDING: Your daughter is well-meaning but insensitive. Because you can't make her comprehend that birthdays have different connotations for different people, and that you prefer to "forget" about this one, plan an enjoyable getaway for yourself the week that yours rolls around and leave town. And every time you feel yourself going into a panic, practice this mantra: 50 is the new 30. Once you make up your mind to accept it, then you—like so many others—will believe it and calm down. Aging is normal. It's stress that's the killer.**

**DEAR ABBY:** I recently inherited some money. The amount is enough to allow me to leave a job I find stifling and set up my own business without having to worry about money for the first year.

I am excited about it, but I'm getting nothing but doom and disapproval from my family. My husband says he supports me, but has confided that he's afraid I'm going to plunge us into poverty. My parents and siblings tell me I'm being irresponsible and wasting money I could be investing for retirement. They remind me of how many small businesses fail and tell me I'm "crazy" to leave a secure job.

I want to take advantage of this opportunity, but my family's attitude is starting to make me doubt myself. Am I naive and irresponsible?

AMBITIOUS IN AUSTRALIA

**DEAR AMBITIOUS: No, you're a woman with a dream. And that's OK. Until a century ago, nobody thought man could fly, and now we've struck water on the moon.**

**HOWEVER, just to cover your bases and see if your dream is practical, write a business plan and take it to a bank to see if they would be willing to lend you money to start your business. If the answer is yes, I see no reason why you shouldn't invest in yourself (at zero interest).**

**DEAR ABBY:** I am 30 and have been dating my girlfriend, "Megan," for a few months. She's 22. I'm in love with her, but I can't seem to get something out of my head.

Megan told me she is bisexual. She says she has never been with a woman, but she's attracted to them. I was in this situation before. My last girlfriend left me for another woman, and I'm afraid it'll happen again. I love Megan and would like to spend the rest of my life with her, but I'm afraid she may one day decide she missed out on something and want to pursue other options.

Megan swears she wouldn't cheat on me with anyone—man or woman. Should I end this now, before we go any further, or am I being paranoid and worrying for nothing?

CONFUSED IN RHODE ISLAND

**DEAR CONFUSED: Megan has been honest with you. She's also 22, and she may not be sure of exactly who she is. Until she's certain about what she wants, it is premature of you to be considering a permanent relationship. At 30, you are ready to settle down. Megan may need time and the freedom to do some exploring before she will be.**

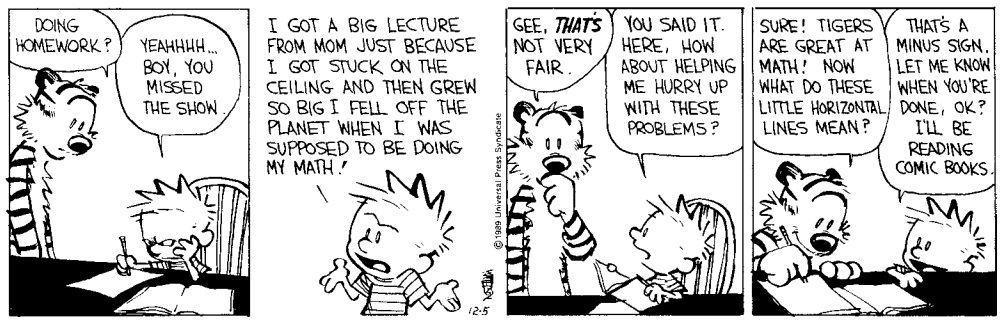
*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


DOING HOMEWORK?
YEAHHHH... BOY, YOU MISSED THE SHOW.
I GOT A BIG LECTURE FROM MOM JUST BECAUSE I GOT STUCK ON THE CEILING AND THEN GREW SO BIG I FELL OFF THE PLANET WHEN I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE DOING MY MATH.
GEE, THAT'S NOT VERY FAIR.
YOU SAID IT. HERE, HOW ABOUT HELPING ME HURRY UP WITH THESE PROBLEMS?
SURE! TIGERS ARE GREAT AT MATH! NOW WHAT DO THESE LITTLE HORIZONTAL LINES MEAN?
THAT'S A MINUS SIGN. LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU'RE DONE, OK? I'LL BE READING COMIC BOOKS.
© 1989 Universal Press Syndicate
12-5

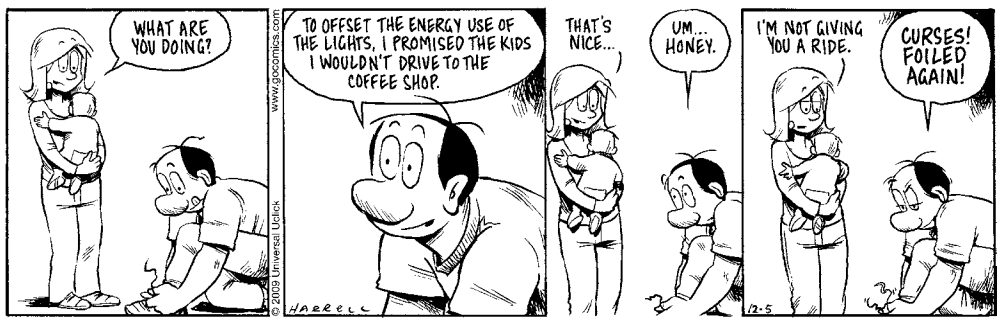
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I REMEMBER CHRISTMASES BACK ON THE FARM...
UH-OH
THE FAMILY ALL MAKING CORN COB ORNAMENTS TOGETHER...
HERE WE COME
DOC BOY HOT GLUING SEQUINS TO MY FOREHEAD..
AND THERE WE GO
© 2009 PAWS, INC. All rights reserved.
www.garfield.com
JIM DAVIS 12-5
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
TO OFFSET THE ENERGY USE OF THE LIGHTS, I PROMISED THE KIDS I WOULDN'T DRIVE TO THE COFFEE SHOP.
THAT'S NICE...
UM... HONEY.
I'M NOT GIVING YOU A RIDE.
CURSES! FOILED AGAIN!
© 2009 Universal Uclick
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HARRELL
12-5

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**
1 They get in the whey
6 Iraqi port city
11 Cantankerous
12 Basketry willows
14 Protestant clergyman
15 Human being
16 Night before Christmas
17 Dad
19 Shading
20 Paper measure
22 Lose power
23 Workbench attachment
24 Extemporize
26 State police officer
28 Mess up
30 — Lanka
31 Vanishing point?
35 Sounds of stock footage?
39 Hits hard
40 Cauldron
42 Frizzy do
43 Jungfrau, e.g.
44 Starbucks choice
46 Lincoln's bill
47 Toxic substance
49 Pen
51 Opening remark?
52 Diner
53 Less gregarious
54 Out of practice

**DOWN**
1 Really wanted
2 Fantastic
3 In medias —
4 Let fall
5 Church council
6 Some are teeny
7 On the briny
8 Round Table address
9 Forward, maybe
10 Stir up
11 "Turandot" or "Tosca"
13 Villain's look
18 Pendulum site
21 Carriages
23 "Presto!"
25 Support system?
27 Killer whale
29 Maturing agent
31 Weapons of mouse destruction
32 Head lights?
33 Mischievous
34 Sinbad's bird
36 Counterbalance
37 Religious house
38 Young man
41 Candle type
44 Cupola
45 Herr's spouse
48 Opinion
50 "Monty Python" opener

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

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| E | L | V | E | S | ■ | E | S | P | ■ | A | C | T |
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| ■ | ■ | C | O | L | D | E | R | ■ | A | M | P | S |
| M | O | I | ■ | Y | A | K | ■ | C | R | A | T | E |
| P | A | N | G | ■ | V | A | G | U | E | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| G | R | E | A | S | E | ■ | N | E | S | S | I | E |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | R | A | S | T | A | ■ | S | A | D | E |
| D | I | L | L | Y | ■ | E | R | A | ■ | C | O | N |
| E | T | U | I | ■ | B | A | L | T | I | C | ■ | ■ |
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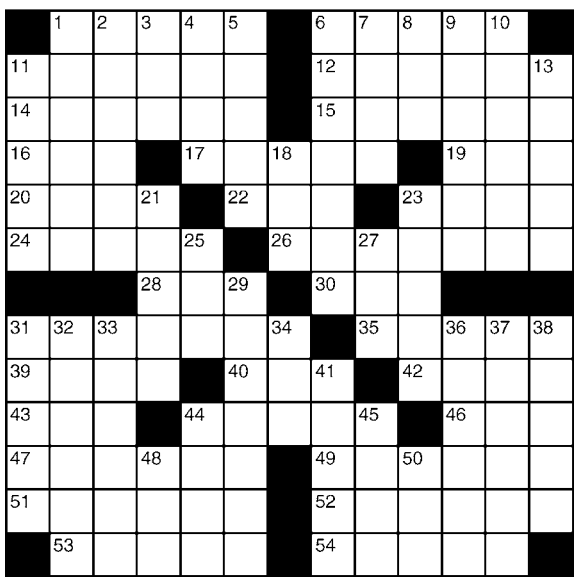
Yesterday's answer 12-5



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY**: Frankie Muniz, 24; Margaret Cho, 41; John Rzeznik, 44; Morgan Brittany, 58

**Happy Birthday**: Spend more time looking after your personal and financial business. Pay off debt and take care of your stress and emotional well-being. Fixing what's ailing will require a little dedication, work and sacrifice. You have what it takes to turn things in your favor, so don't fall short when there is so much to gain. Your numbers are 4, 13, 18, 21, 30, 35, 41

**ARIES** (*March 21-April 19*): Love is in the stars and time spent trying to please someone special will pay off. A few minor physical enhancements will add to your appeal. Getting involved in an event or activity that challenges you will be exhilarating. ✪✪✪✪✪

**TAURUS** (*April 20-May 20*): Don't leave anything to chance, especially if it has to do with your love life. There will be offers that must be considered. A money-making deal must not be overlooked. ✪✪

**GEMINI** (*May 21-June 20*): You can resolve emotional matters if you face them head-on. Love is on the rise and, if you are willing to do a little extra, the returns will be worth your while. Spice up your life by using your imagination in intimate circumstances. ✪✪✪✪

**CANCER** (*June 21-July 22*): By developing your skills or finding a way to conquer a fear or inadequacy, you will put yourself in a stronger position when dealing with friends and relatives. Strive for greater confidence and you will excel. ✪✪✪

**LEO** (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Plan to have some fun. Put an emotional twist into the mix by sharing your feelings with someone who belongs in your dreams, hopes and wishes. Collaboration will lead to an interesting partnership. Romance is in the stars so don't waste any time. ✪✪✪

**VIRGO** (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take the time to listen to what others have to offer. If you take stock of what's important in your life, you will make choices that will honor your own desires. The company you keep must have common interests. ✪✪✪

**LIBRA** (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): A lazy attitude will work against you. Don't give anyone the chance to blame you for unfinished business. Don't let a professional change cause an emotional reaction that might jeopardize your position. ✪✪

**SCORPIO** (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't rely on anyone but yourself if you want things done. Take time to discover the things that you like to do best and incorporate them into your everyday routine. Don't let your past hold you back. ✪✪✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You are the one with all the ideas so don't let anyone take credit for your input. Travel to visit someone from your past who has been on your mind and you will obtain some answers that have puzzled you for years. Take action—let your heart lead the way. ✪✪✪

**CAPRICORN** (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Your ability to detect what's missing in a relationship that matters to you will lead to the necessary changes to correct any misgivings or misunderstandings. Addressing the past and the changes you plan to make will lead to a better future. ✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**AQUARIUS** (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Sticking up for a friend or helping a cause you believe in will motivate you to take part in similar events. You will come in contact with someone who will change your life. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

**PISCES** (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Your ability to teach, learn and take part in things that count will lead to an encounter with someone who can change your life forever. You may be enticed to travel but, before you do, consider the cost involved. ✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby**: You are unpredictable and eager to jump into things that interest you. You are nurturing but firm in the way you handle others.

*Eugenia's Web sites:* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 9 | | | | 4 | | 2 | |
| 3 | | | | | | 1 | | 5 |
| | | | | | 5 | | 3 | |
| | | | 3 | | 1 | 8 | | 9 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | | 2 | 7 | | 6 | | | |
| | 3 | | 8 | | | | | |
| 6 | | 4 | | | | | | 3 |
| | 5 | | 1 | | | | 7 | |

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 7 |
| 6 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 4 |
| 7 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| 8 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 6 |
| 9 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 1 |
| 2 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 5 |
| 4 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 8 |
| 5 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 9 |

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/04

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**WHAT'S YOUR CULTURAL I.Q.?** Solution: 8 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | L | O | O | H | C | S | N | O | I | T | S | E | U | Q |
| L | E | L | S | F | E | I | L | E | B | R | I | D | G | E |
| A | E | U | I | W | E | I | V | E | R | C | E | R | N | T |
| C | V | E | L | N | B | C | H | (E) | O | N | A | E | I | N |
| I | A | S | S | A | T | A | N | N | (T) | P | A | G | N | E |
| G | L | P | T | L | V | E | C | E | H | (O) | C | I | I | M |
| O | U | U | O | I | I | L | R | K | I | O | (N) | O | A | P |
| L | A | O | O | M | U | T | N | E | G | R | E | N | R | O |
| O | T | R | R | S | A | O | E | N | S | R | E | R | T | L |
| H | I | G | I | I | W | X | I | R | O | T | O | P | N | E |
| C | O | O | N | L | B | T | E | C | A | I | I | U | X | V |
| Y | N | I | E | I | I | S | S | A | L | C | T | N | N | E |
| S | N | D | A | V | A | L | I | D | I | T | Y | O | G | D |
| P | G | S | E | C | N | E | R | E | F | F | I | D | N | G |
| E | C | N | E | G | I | L | L | E | T | N | I | A | R | B |

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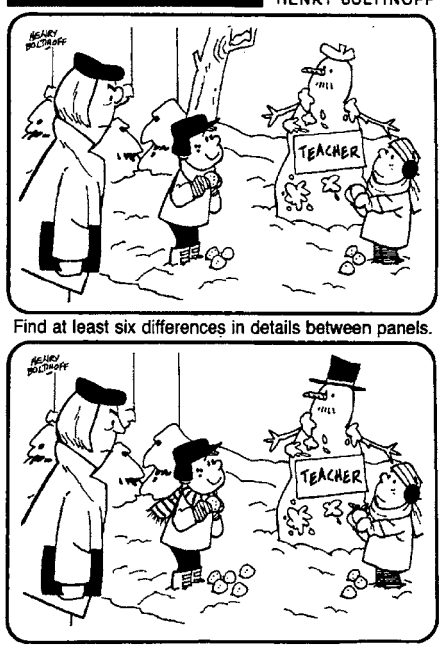
Background, Behavior, Beliefs, Bias, Brain, Bridge, Class, Cognitive, Conclusions, Development, Differences, Entertain, Evaluation, Exam, Experience, Graph, Groups, Intelligence, Interesting, Knowledge, Literacy, Note, Notion, Psychological, Questions, Region, Review, Roots, Schools, Score, Training, Validity, Values

**Yesterday's Answer: Clothing**

**NEW FROM WONDERWORD!** The Wonderword 2010 Desk Calendar is now available for pre-order on Amazon.com and Calendars.com. Search: "Wonderword Calendar." Order yours today!

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF




Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Snowman's hat is different. 2. Boy has a scarf. 3. Snowballs have been added. 4. Tree is missing. 5. Teacher's nose is different. 6. Boy is holding an apple.

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## Wishing Well®

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| S | E | D | B | P | E | R | P | E | O | N | Y | D |
| 6 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 6 |
| O | L | A | E | V | D | S | O | C | S | O | T | U |
| 4 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 4 |
| S | I | S | C | L | N | H | A | S | R | A | O | Y |
| 2 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 5 |
| A | S | N | R | E | U | R | F | S | W | C | I | C |
| 7 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 8 |
| E | I | E | D | T | W | L | U | A | E | R | Y | E |
| 4 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Y | N | D | E | C | S | C | S | E | N | S | O | E |
| 6 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 3 |
| M | D | E | S | D | O | G | A | E | R | I | S | N |

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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## Super Crossword

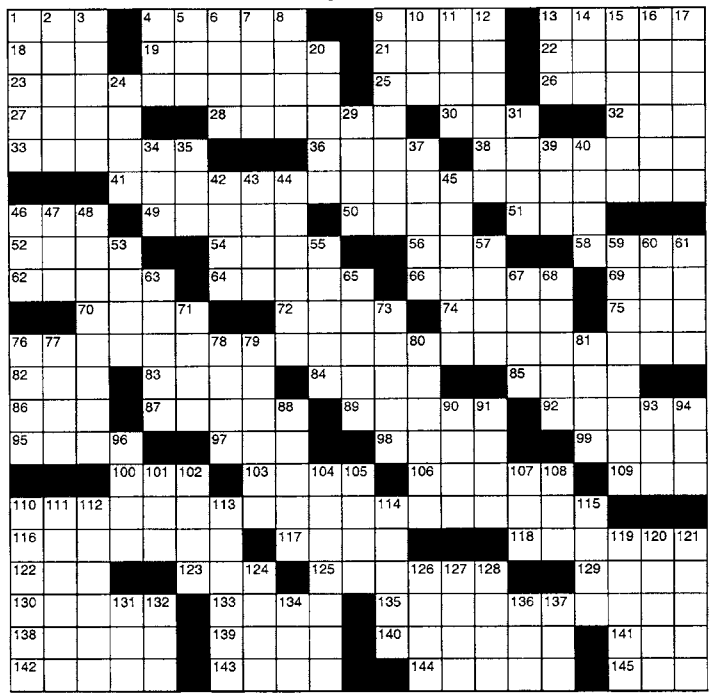
ICE-OMETRICS

**ACROSS**

1 Wine word
4 Hardy hog
9 Metric weight
13 Meeting place
18 "— of You" ('84 hit)
19 Speak freely
21 Designer Gernreich
22 Meyerbeer masterpiece
23 Speaker of remark at 41 Across
25 Orenburg's river
26 Munchhausen's title
27 Lhasa —
28 Strut
30 "Mamma —" ('76 song)
32 Cephalopod's squirt
33 German astronomer
36 Blows away
38 Increase
41 Start of remark
46 Cal. page
49 Napoleon's fate
50 Show the way
51 Mrs. Eddie Cantor
52 Welsh symbol
54 "Oh, woe!"
56 QB's stats
58 Depend (on)
62 Basketball's Patrick
64 Blazer part
66 VCR button
69 Pipe cleaner?
70 "A Doll's House" heroine
72 Protection
74 Sweet sandwich
75 Geologic period
76 Part 2 of remark
82 Diminutive suffix
83 Overwhelm
84 Pound of poetry
85 Story
86 "Holy cow!"
87 Actress Berger
89 Eisenhower or Perot
92 Busybody
95 Collie's concern
97 Dadaism founder
98 Drained
99 Singer Redding
100 Carter or Vanderbilt
103 In addition
106 Chemist Marie
109 Savvy
110 Part 3 of remark
116 Studio
117 Port —, Egypt
118 Shoe part
122 — Beta Kappa
123 Director Peckinpah
125 Joins forces
129 Moro of Italy
130 Clerical title
133 Indication
135 End of remark
138 Register
139 Burdon or Idle
140 Change
141 First zoo?
142 Poor
143 Salt serving
144 Subdued Simba
145 "Brand New —" ('71 hit)

**DOWN**

1 "Wheel of Fortune" host
2 Split and splice
3 Necklace part
4 Rimsky-Korsakov's "Le Coq —"
5 News org.
6 Guns the engine
7 Recruit-to-be's status
8 AKC rejects
9 Cheeseboard choice
10 Capek play
11 Faith or Sandler
12 Sphere
13 Sampras stroke
14 — -Locka, FL
15 Sea or strait
16 Rodeo horse
17 Pulled hard
20 "Fie!"
24 — me tangere
29 Army offender
31 Pro foe
34 Compass pt.
35 Allen or Reed
37 Use rollerblades
39 Concealed
40 At a distance
42 Lab item
43 Grasso or Wilcox
44 Swung a sickle
45 "Goldfinger" character
46 Stout relative
47 Basilica feature
48 Cupid, for one
53 Feel certain
55 Move smoothly
57 Withered
59 — hour
60 Apollo's instrument
61 1492 or 1776
63 Sward stuff
65 Hungarian composer
67 Penny
68 At present
71 Relative of pre-
73 — throat
76 Grant or Laurie
77 Nautical adverb
78 Salad ingredient
79 Set up for a fall
80 Zapotec's home
81 Marge in the fridge
88 Excellent grade
90 Grad
91 Caligula's nephew
93 Constrain
94 Nile slitherer
96 Author Roald
101 — tai
102 First name in fashion
104 Loyal
105 Frigga's fellow
107 Bankbook abbr.
108 Tokyo, once
110 Occur
111 Natural gas component
112 Actress Hall
113 Cleared the slate
114 Turn of phrase
115 Navy warrior
119 Dagger's partner
120 Put on a pedestal
121 Famous p-p-p-pig
124 Actress Sorvino
126 Item of True Value
127 Singer James
128 Mock
131 Poet McKuen
132 TV Tarzan
134 "M*A*S*H" extras
136 When Pierre perspires
137 Nourished



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## Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Canada's Northwest Territories?
2. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby bat called?
3. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What type of furniture is referred to as a "highboy"?
4. MUSIC: How many holes does a recorder (wind instrument) have?
5. LANGUAGE: What is a lazaretto?
6. ARCHITECTURE: What is adobe made of?
7. MYTHOLOGY: Who was the Greek god of medicine?
8. DISCOVERIES: Who is credited with inventing the air brake?
9. BIRTHSTONES: What is November's traditional birthstone?
10. MATH: What is the Arabic equivalent of the Roman numeral MCMXC?

**Answers**

1. Yellowknife
2. A pup
3. Tall chest of drawers
4. Eight
5. A place to quarantine people with infectious disease
6. The building material is made of dried earth and straw
7. Asclepius
8. George Westinghouse, 1868
9. Topaz
10. 1990

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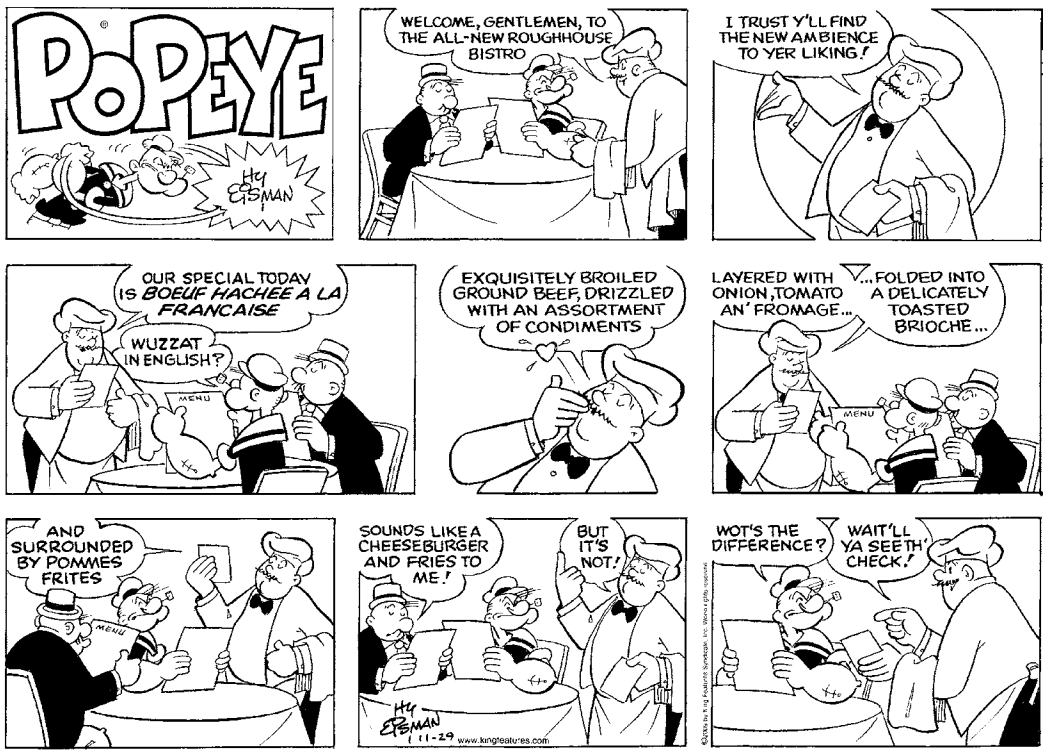
### Saturday's Answers


POPEYE
HY EISMAN
WELCOME, GENTLEMEN, TO THE ALL-NEW ROUGHHOUSE BISTRO
I TRUST Y'LL FIND THE NEW AMBIENCE TO YER LIKING!
OUR SPECIAL TODAY IS BOEUF HACHEE A LA FRANCAISE
WUZZAT IN ENGLISH?
MENU
EXQUISITELY BROILED GROUND BEEF, DRIZZLED WITH AN ASSORTMENT OF CONDIMENTS
LAYERED WITH ONION, TOMATO AN' FROMAGE...
...FOLDED INTO A DELICATELY TOASTED BRIOCHE...
AND SURROUNDED BY POMMES FRITES
SOUNDS LIKE A CHEESEBURGER AND FRIES TO ME!
BUT IT'S NOT!
WOT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
WAIT'LL YA SEE TH' CHECK!
11-29
www.kingfeatures.com

## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

ALRIGHT CLASS, TODAY WE ARE GOING TO WRITE LETTERS TO SANTA CLAUS.
DEAR SANTA, I DON'T NEED ANYTHING ALL I WANT IS WORLD PEACE.
OH MY, GERALD, THIS IS SO THOUGHTFUL. JUST WAIT UNTIL SANTA SEES THIS!
SKY ROCKETING ME TO THE TOP OF THE "GOOD LIST."
Phipps

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR DINNER??
SUPRISE ME!!
HERE, I PEELED THE LABEL OFF THE CAN.
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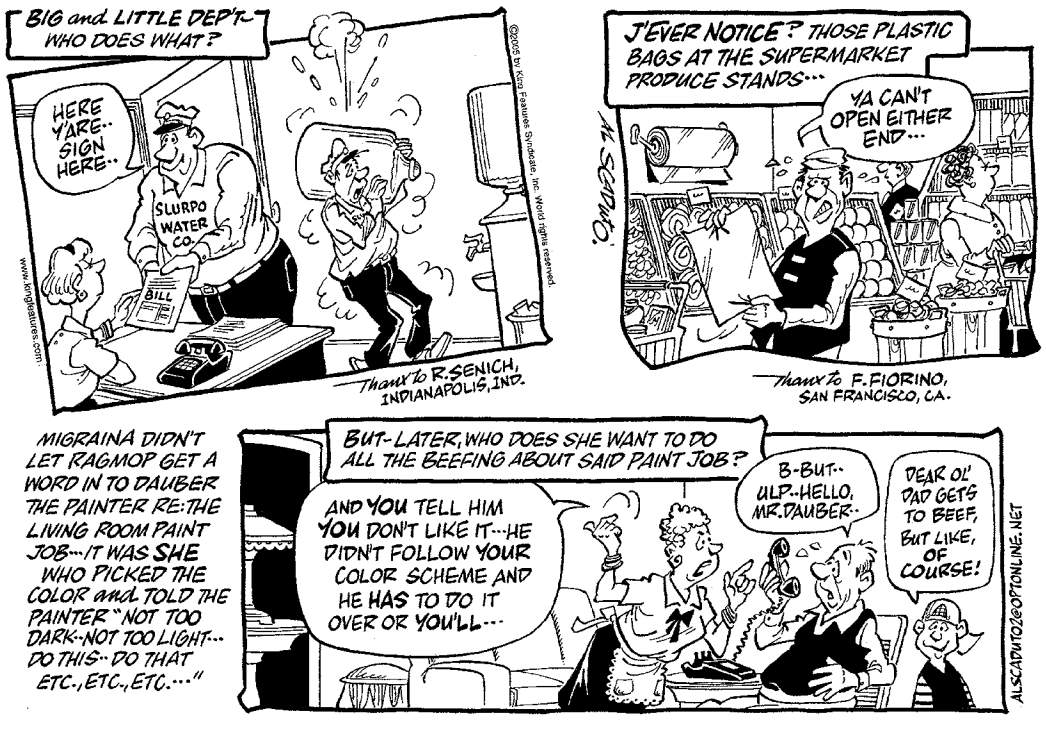
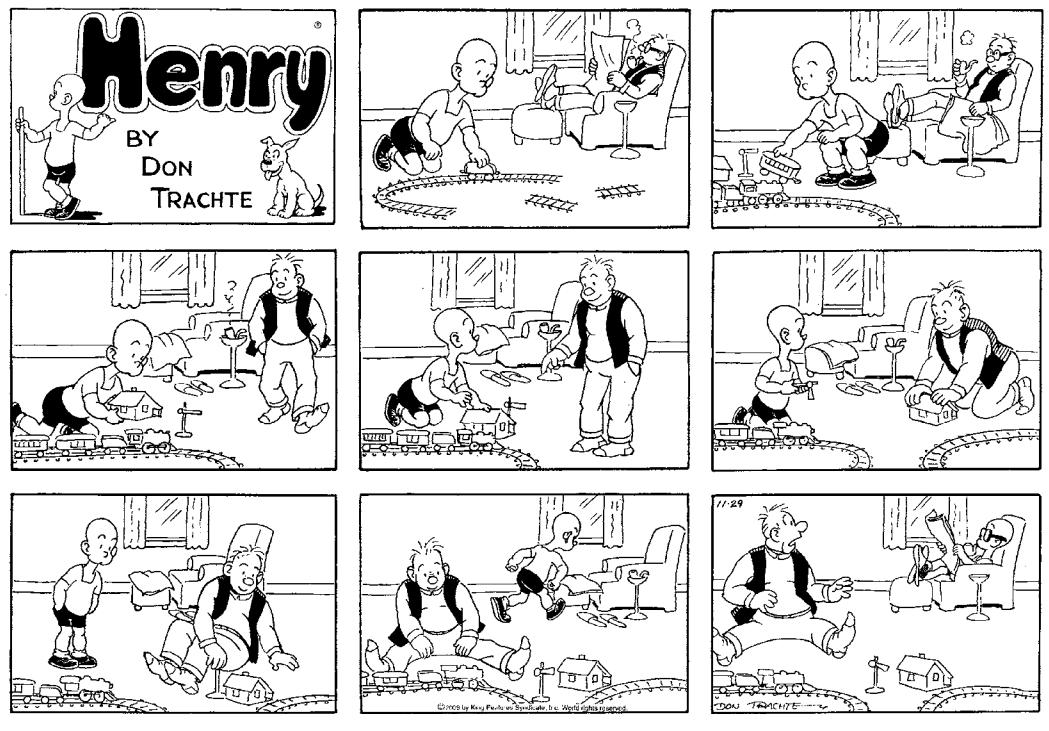
PICKERING

## They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto


BIG and LITTLE DEP'T— WHO DOES WHAT?
HERE Y'ARE.. SIGN HERE..
SLURPO WATER CO.
BILL
©2009 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
www.kingfeatures.com
Thanx to R. SENICH, INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
J'EVER NOTICE? THOSE PLASTIC BAGS AT THE SUPERMARKET PRODUCE STANDS...
YA CAN'T OPEN EITHER END...
AL SCADUTO
Thanx to F. FIORINO, SAN FRANCISCO, CA.
MIGRAINA DIDN'T LET RAGMOP GET A WORD IN TO DAUBER THE PAINTER RE: THE LIVING ROOM PAINT JOB... IT WAS SHE WHO PICKED THE COLOR and TOLD THE PAINTER "NOT TOO DARK.. NOT TOO LIGHT... DO THIS.. DO THAT ETC., ETC., ETC...."
BUT-LATER, WHO DOES SHE WANT TO DO ALL THE BEEFING ABOUT SAID PAINT JOB?
AND YOU TELL HIM YOU DON'T LIKE IT... HE DIDN'T FOLLOW YOUR COLOR SCHEME AND HE HAS TO DO IT OVER OR YOU'LL...
B-BUT.. ULP.. HELLO, MR. DAUBER.
DEAR OL' DAD GETS TO BEEF, BUT LIKE, OF COURSE!
ALSCADUTO@OPTONLINE.NET



# CLASSIFIED ADS

## CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

*Saipan Tribune's* Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

*Saipan Tribune* also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

| ADS (7DAYS) | COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE) |
|---|---|
| • 3-Liner | **$25** |
| • 5-Liner | **$35** |
| • 3-Liner with picture | **$45** |
| • 5-Liner with picture | **$55** |

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

**Classified Ads**

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

### CANCELLATION

**Classified Ads**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

*Saipan Tribune* will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT Solution: Knockout drops

**FOR SALE**
YELLOW FLAME TREE'S
3ft-6ft $20.00–$30.00
322-5691•285-6626

**HELP WANTED**
Looking for Sexy Dancer
• Female
• IR or Green Card holder
Please apply by email to Joon Park at crossroad44@yahoo.co.kr or call 235-2151/2331123

**BUSINESS FOR SALE**
ESL / LANGUAGE SCHOOL
Be your own Boss! 3 years in business. Gross $3,000 per month. Expandable. Very low overhead. Monthly Rent. Nice on-site housing available.
Please call: 287-0215 / 235-0215
Email: zp1974@yahoo.com

**RUSH SEPARATION LEASE (55 years)**
Three (3) Buildings on 2,000 M2
- 30'x90' (7 Units Apt.) Concrete
- 30'x60' (2 Units Apt.) Semi-Concrete
- 24'x84' (3 Units Apt.) Semi-Concrete

Located: East Chalan Kanoa, Saipan
Price: Only $87,000 (Negotiable)!!!
Pls. call (670)788-7393 – Mr. Sablan

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO WITHDRAW AND NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO WITHRAW**

Following a strategic review of our business in the region, notice is being given that MITSUI SUMITOMO INSURANCE CO., LTD. intends to withdraw from the insurance business in the CNMI. Pursuant to 20 NMIAC § 20-40.1-210, an application for an Order permitting withdrawal from the insurance business in the CNMI has been filed with the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Department of Commerce, CNMI.

All persons interested in this matter should contact Rodney J. Rankin, Aon Insurance Micronesia (Saipan), Inc. as General Agent for Mitsui Sumitom Insurance Co., Ltd., P.O. Box 502177, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950 or (670) 234-2811.

Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co., Ltd.

**FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL**

For Rent: 3 Bedroom House Fully Furnished. In Tottotville, Koblerville. Please call 234-5459

**Kairos University**
**TEACHER WANTED**
**Looking for an English teacher**
- U.S. Citizen
- Must be an Education Graduate

Location: Navy Hill (under GCA)
Please apply by email: mosoree@gmail.com or call 322-1113, 483-1113
http:kairosuniversityus.org

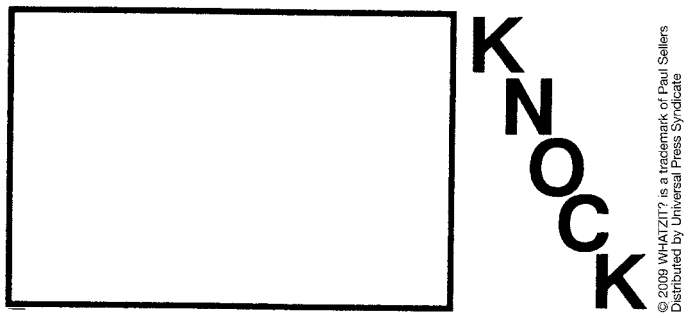
**WANTED TO BUY**

Looking for used cars preferably, Toyota, Nissan, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Suzuki & Isuzu. Must bee 2000 & above model. We pay cash! Please call 287-7676.

MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr., Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

**WHATZIT?™**

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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**Find today's solution in this section**

Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
50¢
Fitial says decision to end Aggreko 'far from certain'
CUC emergency extended anew
'CUC unlikely to meet EPA deadlines'
Schuler in
Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
235-NEWS

# Jets overcome injury to Sanchez to beat Bills

**TORONTO** (AP)—Mark Sanchez threw a go-ahead touchdown pass to Braylon Edwards before hurting his right knee, and the New York Jets' stingy defense finished the job in a 19-13 win over the Buffalo Bills on Thursday night.

Sanchez went 7 of 15 for 104 yards and a 13-yard scoring strike to Edwards that put the Jets up 16-10 late in the first half. But the rookie first-round pick was knocked out of the game when he injured his knee diving headfirst on an 8-yard run early in the third quarter.

Jay Feely hit four field goals, including a 49-yarder, as the Jets (6-6) won their second straight game.

The Bills (4-8) struggled in the second half, when their offense was limited to 36 yards and four first downs.

After Rian Lindell hit a 32-yard field goal to cut the Jets' lead to 19-13 with 5:28 left, the Bills were unable to muster a threat on their final possession.

Shaun Ellis burst up the middle to sack Ryan Fitzpatrick for a 10-yard loss. On the next play, Fitzpatrick attempted a desperation heave up the right sideline intended for Terrell Owens. The pass was underthrown, which allowed Darrell Revis to intercept it with 2:02 remaining. The Jets then were able to run out the clock.

Revis kept Owens in check, limiting him to three catches for 31 yards, and spoiling a game which was billed as "T.O. in T.O."

AP

New York Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez throws the ball while playing against the Buffalo Bills during the first-half NFL football game action on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009, in Toronto.

"I just try the best I can," Revis said. "We know he's a big-time receiver. I get that job every week."

The game was Buffalo's second in Toronto, part of a five-year, $78 million deal the Bills reached with Toronto-based Rogers Communications last year to play one annual regular-season game and three preseason contests in Canada's largest city and financial capital.

"This is my first time going outside of the country. I got my passport for the first time," Revis said. "It was a good time."

Marshawn Lynch scored on a 15-yard run and Lindell had three field goals, including a 49-yarder. The Bills now have lost both games north of the border following a 16-3 loss to Miami last year.

Owens chalked the loss up to missed opportunities due to breakdowns by Buffalo's patchwork offensive line, which lost right tackle Kirk Chambers to an injured left ankle late in the second quarter.

"We had an opportunity there at the end to at least establish something, but it was too little, too late," Owens said.

The Jets remained in the playoff hunt, but Sanchez's status for next weekend's game at Tampa Bay was unclear.

The former Southern California star was hurt on a headfirst dive ending an 8-yard run on New York's second possession of the second half. He stayed in the game for two more plays before being replaced by Kellen Clemens.

Sanchez was examined by trainers for several minutes on the sideline before he made his way with a slight limp to the locker room. He already was nursing a sore left knee from Sunday's 17-6 win over Carolina and the Jets brought in Yankees manager Joe Girardi this week to help him with his sliding technique.

New York's Thomas Jones had 109 yards rushing to break the 1,000-yard mark for his fifth straight year.

The teams traded the lead three times in the first half. Down 10-9, the Jets went ahead for good when Sanchez scrambled out of trouble and hit Edwards over the middle with 44 seconds left in the half to cap a six-play, 86-yard drive.

Sanchez's abbreviated night was a much better performance than his previous game against Buffalo, a 16-13 overtime loss during which he threw a season-worst five interceptions, including one that set up the winning field goal.

# Ian Poulter, Zach Johnson tied for lead at Tiger's event

**THOUSAND OAKS, Calif.** (AP)—Ian Poulter and Zach Johnson wound up tied for the lead Thursday at 4-under 68.

Only one of them was happy about it.

Playing for the sixth straight week after flying all over Asia, Poulter had a great round turn into a good one on the 18th hole at Sherwood Country Club when he drove into the trees, clipped a branch and three-putted from 35 feet for a double bogey.

"It's 4-under par and I'm disappointed," Poulter said. "I'm leading, but I should way clear."

Not only did he have that double bogey at the end, Poulter twice three-putted on par 5s, and had a vicious lip-out on the seventh. He figures he wasted a round that could have been in the neighborhood of 64, although the Englishman has been around long enough to realize golf doesn't work that way.

Johnson also dropped a couple of shots, although he made up ground on the par 5s. He remains famous for his Masters victory in 2007 when he chose to lay up on the par 5s at Augusta National. Puffing out his chest with a sarcastic grin, Johnson told of making two birdies on the par 5s by reaching the green in two.

He was pleased with his 68, for no other reason than he barely touched a club in the two weeks before he arrived.

"I feel like my game is in a position good enough to win," said Johnson, who has won twice on the PGA Tour this year.

Padraig Harrington, winless in official events since capturing his second straight major at the PGA Championship last year, was steady in his round of 69. No one else managed to break 70 on a crisp, sunny day in the Conejo Valley foothills.

The 18-man field is missing its host—Tiger Woods—who pulled out of the tournament Monday citing unspecified injuries from his car crash last week that has dominated talk at Sherwood. In the days since he withdrew, there was a magazine report alleging an affair and an apology from Woods for his "personal failings."

Players have spoken about the scandal in the days leading up to the tournament, all of them offering support to Woods. Once the tournament began, their attention shifted to golf. This is the first time the tournament is awarding official world ranking points.

"We haven't talked about it," Johnson said. "It hasn't even been a thought."

Jim Furyk and PGA champion Y.E. Yang were at 70. Graeme McDowell, who replaced Woods in the field, was among those at 71.

Poulter and Johnson could not be any more different, from their dress to their style of play to their approach this week.

Johnson already has an eye toward 2010, bringing along his trainer and spending more time in the gym than on the practice range. He is trying to win, as he does every tournament, although he referred to this as an offseason workout week.

"I'm not trying to treat it any different," he said. "Once I get off the golf course, it's a little difference. The workouts stink. I'm hurting right now."

Poulter began his journey with a victory in the Singapore Open. From there he played the HSBC Champions in Shanghai, then the Hong Kong Open, followed by the Dubai World Championship and the World Cup in China.

Next week? The Shark Shootout in Florida.

He already has worked out that a strong finish this week could move him into the top 10 in the world. He is still competing the way he did at the start of the year.

"My calendar says '09," he said. "It doesn't finish until I have my Christmas dinner."

## *Players tee up at tournament without Tiger*

**THOUSAND OAKS, Calif.** (AP)—A potentially explosive news conference with an alleged mistress was canceled Thursday and more details trickled out about the car accident that started all the trouble for Tiger Woods.

The news conference in Los Angeles for Rachel Uchitel, the woman who denied a tabloid report about an affair with Woods, was canceled about an hour before it was to begin.

High-profile attorney Gloria Allred, who was to make a statement about Uchitel's relationship with golf's No. 1 player, said it was called off because of "unforeseen circumstances." Allred said she would have no further comment.

For the first time since last Friday, when Woods ran his SUV into a fire hydrant and a tree outside his Florida home, there were no news conferences involving police nor any statements from Woods on his Web site.

His last one was Wednesday, when he issued a statement conceding that he had "let my family down." That followed a report in Us Weekly magazine of a cocktail waitress claiming to have had a 31-month affair with Woods.

The Associated Press obtained an audio recording of an interview the Florida Highway Patrol conducted with Woods' neighbors after the accident. Troopers interviewed Jarius Adam, who called 911, and his sister, Kimberly Harris.

Harris told troopers that Woods' mother, Kultida, and mother-in-law, Barbro Holmberg, were at the scene, but the AP could not confirm that.

A voice that strongly resembles Woods' mother is heard in the background during the 911 call saying loudly, "What happened?"

A spokeswoman for Holmberg, mother of Elin Nordegren, didn't know if she was in Florida when the accident happened.

"I don't know for sure, but I don't think so," spokeswoman Ewa Malmborg said. "I have not been informed about that. She was here again working on Monday again anyway."

In the FHP interview, a trooper asked Harris about the women and if they talked to anyone at the scene.

"The cops came, the Windermere cops came first, then the security guards came," Harris said. "And then it appears Mr. Woods' mom, and Tiger's wife's mom came out after the fact. I don't know if they heard the commotion, I don't if she, his wife, left and came back. But they walked across the grass and were outside as well."

Woods' peers, meanwhile, went from talking about him to playing in his $5.75 million golf tournament.

He previously pulled out of the Chevron World Challenge at Sherwood Country Club, an 18-player event that pays $1.35 million to the winner. Participants spent most of the week taking questions on their sport's biggest star, most offering support and curious about details and some of the allegations.

More criticism came from Jesper Parnevik of Sweden, who once employed Woods' wife as a nanny and told reporters Wednesday that he owed her an apology for introducing them.

"I have lost all respect for him, primarily as a man and a father," Parnevik said in the Swedish newspaper Aftonbladet on Thursday from the PGA Tour qualifying tournament in West Palm Beach, Fla. "It doesn't even feel like it matters what he has done on the golf course. My respect for him as a person is gone. We have been nice to Tiger before, but now he only has himself to blame.

"We thought better of him, but he is not the one we thought he was."

Among star athletes Woods considers a close friend is Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers. They had dinner in Orlando, Fla., during the NBA finals this year.

When he heard the word "Tiger" in a question Wednesday, Bryant said, "Man, get off that. I knew there was going to be one," and he ended the interview.

The crowd was smaller than usual at Sherwood, where Woods isn't playing for the second straight year. He was recovering from knee surgery in 2008, although he was still on the property.

Players knew they would be peppered with questions when they arrived, but by Thursday, it was back to birdies and bogeys.

"We haven't talked about it," Zach Johnson said. "It hasn't even been a thought."

# Iverson back in Philly state of mind

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—Allen Iverson was teary almost from the time he sat down, his usual stream-of-consciousness talk now a more subdued style of speaking.

The player who once repeated the word "practice" nearly 20 times during a rambling monologue had little time for one-liners. It was contrary to the image Iverson sculpted over a 14-year career filled with coaching runins and contradictions.

Iverson could always somehow get away with his transgressions when he was an MVP and a regular All-Star. At 34 and considered a bench player by his last two teams, the lengthy list nearly ended his career.

When the Philadelphia 76ers, his former team, offered him an NBA lifeline—A.I. snatched his last shot.

"When I had the opportunity to come back here," Iverson said, a pause as his voice cracked, "I couldn't turn it down. I'm just happy."

Iverson returns to the organization he led to the NBA finals in 2001 and won four scoring titles. The 76ere are the only team known to make a serious run at Iverson once he announced his intention to retire last week, a fact that humbled Iverson and made him realize he may have cupped his ears to the roaring crowd for the last time.

"It's just a bad rap," Iverson said Thursday at the Wachovia Center. "Once guys in the front office start calling about a player, and you've made the mistakes that I've made, you could see why that guys were laying off me. I never thought it had anything to do with basketball issues. It was always stuff off the court."

Iverson will play his first game against Denver on Monday night in a city absolutely thundering over his arrival.

His returned generated the kind of buzz the Sixers haven't felt in Philly since he was traded in 2006. The Sixers said they had 327,657 page views on their Web site Wednesday once his signing was announced—up from 36,000 the previous Wednesday.

The Sixers, 29th in the NBA in attendance, have not yet sold out Monday's game. His No. 3 jerseys are expected to be on sale at the team's merchandise store Monday.

Team president Ed Stefanski again insisted the move was not designed to sell tickets, merchandise or make them relevant in the city sports scene. He simply needed a point guard to replace Lou Williams, out two months with a broken jaw, and Iverson was the best available free agent.

"If the byproduct is we get more attendance, this guy brings more excitement to the building, that's great," Stefanski said. "But to consistently have that going forward, you've got to win basketball games."

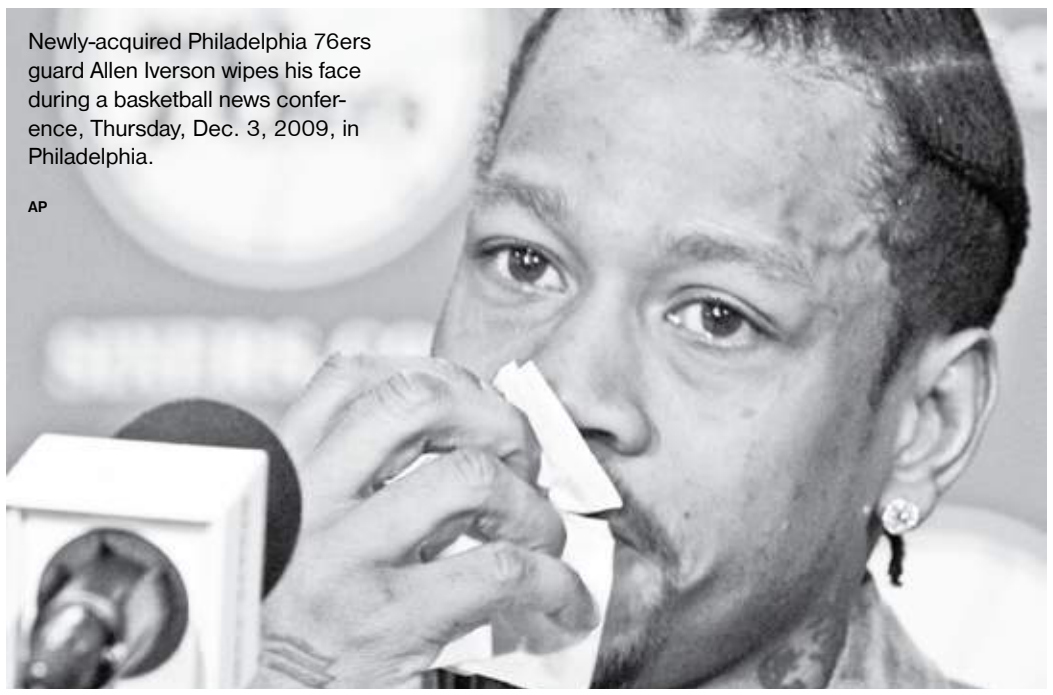
The Sixers need all the help they can get to avoid totally free-falling out of the Eastern Conference playoff race. The Sixers (5-14) have lost eight straight entering Saturday's game at Charlotte.

The 10-time All-Star guard who has scored more than 24,000 points signed a nonguaranteed deal with the 76ers on Wednesday, and said he's ready to prove he can play like the Iverson of old.

"I want to fit in. I want to be a part of any success we have," Iverson said. "I just want to be one of the guys. I don't need a whole bunch of praise. I don't need a whole lot of accolades. I just want to play basketball."

Iverson will not travel to Charlotte. He will practice Sunday and on Monday pull on his 76ers jersey for the first time since Dec. 6, 2006, in Chicago—when he refused to play in the fourth quarter of what became his final game with the team.

His frosty relationship with the former coach and GM led to his trade to the Nuggets. He played most of last season in Detroit, where he complained about coming off the bench, and had a similar experience in his ill-fated stint in Memphis.



Newly-acquired Philadelphia 76ers guard Allen Iverson wipes his face during a basketball news conference, Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009, in Philadelphia.

AP

"I always thought it was strange having another uniform," Iverson said. "I couldn't feel comfortable with another uniform."

Stefanski said he didn't promise Iverson would start, but there's little doubt he'll be introduced with four other Sixers against Denver. Iverson has started 877 of 889 career games and said he doesn't have a role player's mentality.

"It was so hard for me because I never had to do it my whole life," Iverson said. "Even from grade school."

Iverson said he won't complain in Philadelphia and told coach Eddie Jordan to "just give me an assignment."

Former Pistons coach Michael Curry and Grizzlies coach Lionel Hollins must be somewhere rubbing their temples.

Iverson was the No. 1 overall pick in the 1996 draft, but his 10 turbulent seasons in Philadelphia were marred by rants about practice, arguments with former coach Larry Brown, arrests and a failed rap career.

"With the mistakes I've made in my life, I've created a picture of me that's not me," Iverson said. "I did a lot of things when I was young that I'm not proud of. But I think those things helped me to be the man that I am now.

"The last couple of years have been hell. All I want to do is play basketball and help the guys that I play with."

Iverson posted the highest scoring average in Sixers history (28.1), was second on the points list (19,583) and holds the record for 3-pointers (877). He was a seven-time All-Star and won two All-Star game MVPs.

He found some success in Denver, but his career unraveled in Detroit and Memphis. He took an indefinite leave from the Grizzles to deal with a personal matter, never returned, and was set to retire.

Now he's back.

And the next time he calls it quits, Iverson vows it will be as a Sixer.

"This is where my love is at," he said.

## *Celtics win 6th straight, beat Spurs, 90-83*

**SAN ANTONIO** (AP)—Kevin Garnett scored 20 points and the Boston Celtics won their sixth straight game, 90-83 over the San Antonio Spurs on Thursday night.

Ray Allen added 15 points to help the Celtics improve to an NBA-best 8-1 away from home. They'll wrap up a four-game road swing Friday night at Oklahoma City.

San Antonio also had won five in a row, but the Celtics came away with what Spurs coach Gregg Popovich acknowledged was a bit of a litmus test. Of the nine teams San Antonio has beaten this season, only four had winning records entering Thursday.

Rookie DeJuan Blair had a career-high 18 points and 11 rebounds for the Spurs, who will get another test against a division leader Saturday against Denver.

Boston matched its longest winning streak of the season, when the Celtics started 6-0. Only the Los Angeles Lakers, who've won seven straight, are on more of a roll.

Rajon Rondo had 12 points and 12 assists, and the point guard came up big for the Celtics in the final minute. Rondo's jumper with 55 seconds left pushed the lead to four at 87-83, and he later stripped Tony Parker during a layup attempt that would have cut Boston's lead to one possession.

Ray Allen had 15 points for Boston, which never trailed after seizing the lead in the first minutes of the game.

Tim Duncan had 16 points and 15 rebounds, and teaming with Blair, the Spurs dominated the Celtics on the boards 55-32. Blair was 9 of 11 from the field, but his boundless energy under the rim also inadvertently gave the Celtics a basket.

After Brian Scalabrine missed a 3-pointer in the first quarter, Blair bounced up for the rebound—then promptly shot the ball into his own basket.

It was one of a perhaps a couple costly gaffes for the Spurs. Michael Finley hit a corner 3-pointer with 12.9 seconds left that might have kept the Spurs alive, but he fired with his foot out of bounds.

Popovich confessed before the game that the Celtics presented an early benchmark for the Spurs, which have started to come around after a sluggish 4-6 start. San Antonio pulled together a five-game win streak while playing just two teams, Houston and Milwaukee, with winning records.

Parker finished with 17 points and seven assists, and Manu Ginobili had 11 points.

### Nuggets 114, Heat 96

In Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored 22 points to help Denver rout Miami.

The defeat meant Heat star Dwyane Wade's woeful record in Denver was extended to 0-6 in his seven NBA seasons.

Wade, who snapped an 0-11 skid at Indiana this season, had 25 points.

### Rockets 111, Warriors 109

In Oakland, California, Aaron Brooks hit two free throws with 2 seconds left as Houston edged Golden State.

Brooks finished with 25 points to lead seven Houston players in double figures.

Monta Ellis had 24 points, eight assists and six rebounds for Golden State, who welcomed back coach Don Nelson after he missed five games because of pneumonia.

## A's boost infield in trade with Cubs

**OAKLAND, Calif.** (AP)—The Oakland Athletics acquired third baseman Jake Fox, second baseman Aaron Miles and cash considerations from the Chicago Cubs on Thursday for three players.

The Cubs got right-handed pitcher Jeff Gray, minor league outfielder Matt Spencer and minor league righty Ronny Morla.

The trade gives Oakland added depth in an infield that has been injury plagued in recent seasons. While general manager Billy Beane hopes six-time Gold Glove third baseman Eric Chavez will be healthy after season-ending back surgery, the A's knew they needed a contingency plan.

Chavez could now spend a good chunk of his time as designated hitter. The last-place A's recently signed free-agent third baseman Dallas McPherson to a minor league contract and invited him to spring training.

Fox gives Oakland versatility considering he also plays the outfield. In two stays with the Cubs this year, he hit .259 with 11 home runs and 44 RBIs in 82 games. He began the season at Triple-A Iowa, batting .409 with 17 home runs and 53 RBIs in 45 games.

The Athletics were looking for some much-needed pop from the right side, and wanted Fox.

"He can hit. We've always liked his bat," assistant GM David Forst said.

The switch-hitting Miles signed a two-year, $4.9 million contract with the Cubs last winter, then batted a career-low .185 with no home runs and five RBIs in 74 games. He spent two stints on the disabled list, with a strained right shoulder strain and a hyperextended right elbow.

"Aaron Miles coming off a disappointing year, we thought this might give him a better chance to make a ballclub and play for the A's," Cubs general manager Jim Hendry said.

"Jake Fox really did a quality job for us and has been with us quite a while. I think we're giving him a real good opportunity to play more on a regular basis in the American League. He's too young in his career just to be a bat off the bench. We certainly felt like we maximized his value in the trade."

With Thursday's acquisitions, Oakland appears to have moved on without former AL Rookie of the Year shortstop Bobby Crosby and perhaps also free-agent second baseman Adam Kennedy.

Mark Ellis remains Oakland's second baseman, Forst said. Ellis signed an $11 million, two-year contract in October 2008 that includes a club option for the 2011 season.

Gray was with Oakland four different times in 2009, going 0-1 with a 3.76 ERA in 24 relief appearances. He also went 2-2 with a 1.54 ERA and a team-high 16 saves in 37 appearances with Triple-A Sacramento.

Hendry said the Cubs were impressed with Gray's velocity and that he would have a chance to make the team in spring training.

Spencer split his time between Class-A Stockton and Double-A Midland, batting a combined .289 with 19 home runs and 91 RBIs in 123 games.

Morla began the year in extended spring training before going 1-7 and a 4.86 ERA in 17 games at Single-A short-season Vancouver.

Hendry added that the deal wasn't related to a potential trade of Milton Bradley.

Bradley, suspended the final two weeks, is still owed $21 million over the final two years of his contract. If the Cubs trade him, they would probably have to pick up some of the tab.

"It didn't have anything to do with saving some money to put toward Milton," Hendry said. "That really didn't play into it."

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boston | 15 | 4 | .789 | – |
| Toronto | 7 | 13 | .350 | 8 1/2 |
| Philadelphia | 5 | 14 | .263 | 10 |
| New York | 4 | 15 | .211 | 11 |
| New Jersey | 0 | 18 | .000 | 14 1/2 |

**Southeast Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Orlando | 15 | 4 | .789 | – |
| Atlanta | 13 | 5 | .722 | 1 1/2 |
| Miami | 10 | 8 | .556 | 4 1/2 |
| Charlotte | 7 | 10 | .412 | 7 |
| Washington | 7 | 10 | .412 | 7 |

**Central Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cleveland | 13 | 5 | .722 | – |
| Milwaukee | 9 | 8 | .529 | 3 1/2 |
| Chicago | 7 | 9 | .438 | 5 |
| Indiana | 6 | 10 | .375 | 6 |
| Detroit | 6 | 12 | .333 | 7 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Southwest Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dallas | 14 | 5 | .737 | – |
| Houston | 11 | 8 | .579 | 3 |
| San Antonio | 9 | 7 | .563 | 3 1/2 |
| New Orleans | 7 | 11 | .389 | 6 1/2 |
| Memphis | 7 | 12 | .368 | 7 |

**Northwest Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denver | 14 | 5 | .737 | – |
| Portland | 12 | 8 | .600 | 2 1/2 |
| Utah | 10 | 7 | .588 | 3 |
| Oklahoma City | 10 | 8 | .556 | 3 1/2 |
| Minnesota | 2 | 16 | .111 | 11 1/2 |

**Pacific Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| L.A. Lakers | 14 | 3 | .824 | – |
| Phoenix | 14 | 5 | .737 | 1 |
| Sacramento | 9 | 8 | .529 | 5 |
| L.A. Clippers | 8 | 11 | .421 | 7 |
| Golden State | 6 | 12 | .333 | 8 1/2 |

**Yesterday's Games**
Boston 90, San Antonio 83
Houston 111, Golden State 109
Denver 114, Miami 96

### NFL STANDINGS

**AMERICAN CONFERENCE**

**East**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New England | 7 | 4 | 0 | .636 | 307 | 202 |
| N.Y. Jets | 6 | 6 | 0 | .500 | 249 | 208 |
| Miami | 5 | 6 | 0 | .455 | 256 | 275 |
| Buffalo | 4 | 8 | 0 | .333 | 199 | 261 |

**South**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| x-Indianapolis | 11 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 304 | 184 |
| Jacksonville | 6 | 5 | 0 | .545 | 202 | 255 |
| Tennessee | 5 | 6 | 0 | .455 | 229 | 289 |
| Houston | 5 | 6 | 0 | .455 | 259 | 243 |

**North**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cincinnati | 8 | 3 | 0 | .727 | 231 | 174 |
| Baltimore | 6 | 5 | 0 | .545 | 257 | 188 |
| Pittsburgh | 6 | 5 | 0 | .545 | 248 | 204 |
| Cleveland | 1 | 10 | 0 | .091 | 122 | 279 |

**West**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| San Diego | 8 | 3 | 0 | .727 | 312 | 219 |
| Denver | 7 | 4 | 0 | .636 | 196 | 189 |
| Kansas City | 3 | 8 | 0 | .273 | 183 | 282 |
| Oakland | 3 | 8 | 0 | .273 | 115 | 258 |

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**East**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dallas | 8 | 3 | 0 | .727 | 255 | 182 |
| Philadelphia | 7 | 4 | 0 | .636 | 293 | 228 |
| N.Y. Giants | 6 | 5 | 0 | .545 | 272 | 261 |
| Washington | 3 | 8 | 0 | .273 | 170 | 205 |

**South**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New Orleans | 11 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 407 | 221 |
| Atlanta | 6 | 5 | 0 | .545 | 272 | 245 |
| Tampa Bay | 1 | 10 | 0 | .091 | 181 | 314 |

**North**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Minnesota | 10 | 1 | 0 | .909 | 342 | 203 |
| Green Bay | 7 | 4 | 0 | .636 | 296 | 215 |
| Chicago | 4 | 7 | 0 | .364 | 216 | 261 |
| Detroit | 2 | 9 | 0 | .182 | 193 | 335 |

**West**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arizona | 7 | 4 | 0 | .636 | 267 | 217 |
| San Francisco | 5 | 6 | 0 | .455 | 228 | 213 |
| Seattle | 4 | 7 | 0 | .364 | 223 | 250 |
| St. Louis | 1 | 10 | 0 | .091 | 130 | 297 |

**x-clinched division**

**Yesterday's Game**
N.Y. Jets 19, Buffalo 13

### CHEVRON WORLD CHALLENGE SCORES

**THOUSAND OAKS, California** (AP) — Scores Thursday from the $5.75 million Chevron World Challenge at the par-72, 7,027-yard Sherwood Country Club:

**FIRST ROUND**

| | |
|---|---|
| Zach Johnson | 35-33—68 |
| Ian Poulter | 31-37—68 |
| Padraig Harrington | 34-35—69 |
| Jim Furyk | 37-33—70 |
| Y.E. Yang | 33-37—70 |
| Stewart Cink | 36-34—70 |
| Sean O'Hair | 35-36—71 |
| Lee Westwood | 33-38—71 |
| Steve Stricker | 37-34—71 |
| Graeme McDowell | 37-34—71 |
| Anthony Kim | 36-35—71 |
| Justin Leonard | 36-36—72 |
| Kenny Perry | 36-36—72 |
| Camilo Villegas | 35-38—73 |
| Mike Weir | 39-34—73 |
| Martin Kaymer | 38-35—73 |
| Lucas Glover | 35-39—74 |
| Paul Casey | 40-35—75 |

*BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS*

# Gomez escapes upset in 8-ball

Erwin Gomez almost choked away his twice-to-beat advantage in the Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament held last Saturday at the Garapan sports bar and watering hole.

After dominating the elimination round, Gomez found a tough customer in Rolly Villanueva in the first game of the finals.

The Coco Restaurant employee capitalized on a Gomez miss on the 8-ball to pocket all his object balls before sinking the 8-ball to force a second game.

The second game was eerily similar to the first as Gomez again ran all his assigned balls and missed on a difficult attempt on the 8-ball, which was left hanging on the pocket.

Villanueva followed the Game 1 script by disposing all his object balls before opting to play a safety shot on his 6-ball.

Gomez had no choice but to commit an intentional foul by pocketing Villanueva's 6-ball. He knew, however, that it would leave Villanueva only with a difficult shot on his last ball since it was hanging precariously by the 8-ball. The latter had no option but to execute a difficult long rail. He missed, giving Gomez an all too easy shot on the 8-ball for the weekly win.

Gomez earlier booked the first finals seat after beating Marc Bryan Nelvis in the first semis game.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Last week's Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament champion Erwin Gomez is flanked by runner-up Rolly Villanueva, right, and third placer Marc Bryan Nelvis after the competition.

Nelvis actually had a chance to beat Gomez but he misfired on a difficult shot to prepare for his last ball. The miss gave Gomez a ball in hand on his last two balls. Gomez, in turn, ran his last two balls and the 8-ball to take the twice-to-beat incentive.

Gomez earned $70 for the victory, while Villanueva settled for the $45 runner-up purse. Nelvis, who lost to Villanueva in the semifinals, took home the $15 third place prize.

Other billiards players that took part in the Saturday pool competition were Zheng Jian Qing, Mark Butac, Roger Espiritu, Dean Borja, Victor Hocog, Juancho Mendoza, Clifford Hamoy, Chester Hamoy, and Roman Rodriguez.

The Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament is held every Saturday and adopts a double-elimination format with a maximum of 16 players.

The entrance fee is $10 and the tournament uses the rules of the Billiards Congress of America. Practice is free between 7pm to 8pm on game day.

For more information on the Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament, call Zheng 287-7676. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

## SAIPAN

*From Page 28*

in the second half to give UoL a 2-1 record. Tabora drilled 11 markers in the third period, as he and Ferdie De La Torre foiled Wushin's repeated comeback bids.

UoL led, 67-63, at the end of the third period, and remained on top in the last quarter when Tabora added 12 more points and De La Torre logged six.

While Tabora and De La Torre took care of business for UoL in the second half, Ed Cosino was the team's leader in the first half, tallying 20 markers. He had eight in the first to put UoL in the lead, 22-19, and posted 12 more in the second to keep the team in front at halftime, 48-42.

### Masters

**UoL 96** – Tabora 33, Cosino 23, De La Torre 22, Pineda 5, Jinang 5, Moran 4, Manalili 4.

**Wushin 88** – Carino 18, Ebuen 17, Dayrit 15, Garon 12, Samson 12, Tobias 11, Trajano 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 22-19, 48-42, 67-63, 96-88.

### Open

**Saipan Fresh 106** – Sanciangco 30, Pagarao 28, Estolas 22, Gapor 13, Opone 3, Villacrusis 2, De Guzman 2, Mina 2, Rebuyon 2.

**IT&E 97** – Cadagat 20, Mendiola 17, Peredo 16, Johnson 14, Lauron 7, Chariton 6, Moises 4, Pagarao 4, Tumaquip 3, Tagle 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 16-22, 50-49, 74-80, 106-97.

## JONES

*From Page 28*

ments that the CNMI netter had been into when he debuted with the touring team in 2008, and this year a better and stronger Jones vowed to put on a good showing in New Zealand.

"I expect to play with more confidence after having some international experience from playing in ITF events in Fiji for the last two years and these same New Zealand tournaments last year," Jones said.

"Obviously, it is one's ultimate goal to win tournaments. However, I set a personal challenge to finish no less than fifth place in any U14 event and no lower than a quarterfinals stint in any U16 event," he added.

The Saipan International School student is confident he will have a better performance in this month's tournament after enrolling in a tennis camp in Australia and continuously training under CNMI coach Jeff Race.

"Raffy went to the Cash Academy in Brisbane for a month this last July. The training was intensive, with four hours of on-court work daily, plus an extra hour a day of fitness training after tennis classes. This was 5-1/2 days a week for nearly five weeks. The fitness training included aerobic work, pilates, and weight training. Obviously his fitness and strength improved and he gained more confidence as shown in his shots, particularly his serves," Rafael' s father, John, said.

"Since his return to Saipan, he has been working with coach Jeff Race three times a week for nearly two hours at a time at Jeff's regularly scheduled tennis class. Recently he has been working with Jeff and other players for an additional six hours a week as part of training (as a hopeful) to be part of the CNMI tennis team to the Micronesia Games. Jeff has been working with him particularly to improve his volleys and net game, which will be essential for him to succeed in New Zealand," the older Jones added.

Rafael Jones boarded a Korean Air flight-bound for Seoul last night for a connecting flight to Auckland. He is scheduled to arrive in Auckland tomorrow before heading to Hamilton for the Waikato tournament, which will run from Dec. 7 to 12.

From Waikato, Jones will go to Gisborne for his second tournament that will take place from Dec. 14 to 17. He will be back to Auckland for his last tournament that will run from Dec. 17 to 20 and then return to Saipan on Dec. 24.

## KOBLERVILLE

*From Page 28*

place at 9am, while the championship match between Koblerville and Dandan is set for 10am.

In the boys division finals, Koblerville's foe will be Saipan Community School. The SCS Tsunamis were the top-ranked after the round robin playoffs, while the Umangs finished second. SIS was third and Dandan finished fourth.

The Dandan Tottots and SIS Geckos will square off for the third place trophy at 9am on Court B, while the title game between the Umangs and Tsunamis will be played at 11am.

This year's U12 interscholastic league also had a round-robin format in the regular season with teams divided into two groups, the southern and northern sides.

The northern division had six teams in GTC, SIS, SCS, Garapan Elementary School, Kagman Elementary School, and Eucon International School. The southern group was composed of Dandan, Koblerville, Oleai Elementary School, William S Reyes Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, and San Antonio Elementary School.

The SCS Tsunamis and Dandan Tottots finished first and second, respectively, in the boys' northern group, while the SIS Geckos topped the southern side, followed by Koblerville.

In the girls division, GTC ruled the northern side, while the SIS Lady Geckos were runners-up. Dandan notched the No. 1 seeding in the southern division, while Koblerville finished second.

# Manny wants 60-40 split vs Mayweather

**MANILA, Philippines**—Filipino boxing icon Manny Pacquiao wants no less than a 60-40 split in his favor if and when a fight with Floyd Mayweather Jr takes place.

This was revealed by Pacquiao's trainer Freddie Roach, who told boxingscene.com that Pacquiao based his demands on the pay-per-view numbers of his last fight against Miguel Cotto, compared to the numbers generated by the Mayweather-Juan Manuel Marquez bout.

Pacquiao's promoter Bob Arum is currently in the country to lure Pacquiao into a possible March 13 bout possibly against Mayweather.

Roach told the Los Angeles Times that talks of a Pacquiao-Mayweather fight being close to a done deal is premature.

"Manny believes he should get a 60-40 [purse] split too, because he did better in pay-per-view than Mayweather this year. Manny's the bigger draw," Roach told the Times.

The multi-awarded trainer, however, believes that a March fight with Mayweather might be too early, especially following a hard fight against Miguel Cotto.

"March 13 is too fast a turnaround," Roach said. "Manny has a broken [right] eardrum suffered in the Cotto fight. I'd like to have more time. I hope the fight happens, yes, but I want us to be in the best possible shape."

The original plan was for Pacquiao to see action on May 1, if nobody had stepped up to face him in the congressional contest in Saranggani. However, following Roy Chiongbian's filing of his certificate of candidacy, organizers will have to move it earlier to March or push it back to September.

Reps of both the Superdome in New Orleans and the new Dallas Cowboys' stadium have sent feelers for them to host the bout, as has the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, where both fighters have fought their biggest fights. ***(PDI)***

## EASY

*From Page 28*

ond half, firing seven points.

In the first game, the Sixers drew double figures from five players to crush Rollers I. Joe Ada led the way with 22 points, while Ernest and Matt Duenas contributed 19 and 16, respectively. Ian Benavente chipped in 14, while Roxanne Duenas added 13.

The Sixers much deeper bench was too much for Rollers I, which had only four players making it to the scoreboard.

With Rollers I lacking in manpower, the Sixers took a commanding 43-28 lead at halftime and never looked back.

### First Game

**Sixers 104** – Ada 22, E. Duenas 19, M. Duenas 16, Benavente 14, R. Duenas 13, C. Duenas 8, J. Duenas 4, Salas 2, Del Rosario 2.

**Rollers I 57** – Williams 24, Tudela 16, Palacios 8, Ano 2.

**Scoring by halves**: 43-28, 104-57.

### Second Game

**670 Rollers II 55** – J. Palacios 14, Maratita 14, Danas 7,Ogo 5, Lisua 4, Kaipat 4, Deleon Guerrero 3.

**Celtics 28** – Sablan 10, T. Taguchi 10, Webb 4, Joh. Villagomez 2, Nicholas 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 24-17, 55-28.

**Jets overcome injury to Sanchez to beat Bills**

Mark Sanchez threw a go-ahead touchdown pass to Braylon Edwards before hurting his right knee, and the New York Jets' stingy defense finished the job in a 19-13 win over the Buffalo Bills on Thursday night.

25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

**Gomez escapes upset in 8-ball**

Erwin Gomez almost choked away his twice-to-beat advantage in the Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament held last Saturday at the Garapan sports bar and watering hole.

27

# Saipan Fresh, UoL repulse foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Fresh Market completed a big fourth-quarter rally to thwart IT&E, while University of Loyola played steady in the final canto to outclass Wushin in the masters division of the 2009 PILCOWA Basketball League on Thursday at the JP Centre Basketball Court.

Saipan Fresh outgunned IT&E in the first seven minutes of the fourth period, 24-6, to eke out a 106-97 victory in the open division.

IT&E was still ahead at the end of the third period, 80-74, when Lerio Pagarao started the fourth canto with a triple and sparked Saipan Fresh's rally. Pagarao went on to finish with 14 points in the fourth quarter, while Jun Estolas and Ryan Sanciangco chipped in six apiece to hand IT&E its first loss in three games.

After trailing most of the way, Saipan Fresh's fourth-quarter breakaway allowed the Marvin Deocares-mentored squad to take a 96-86 lead, with three minutes left in the game.

A three-point play by Errol Peredo temporarily stopped the bleeding for IT&E and he had another chance to cut the lead to six going into the last two minutes of the game, but missed two easy shots. He missed a fastbreak layup and also muffed his own putback.

Saipan Fresh sealed the win from the free throw line with Pagarao going 2-for-2 and Sanciangco hitting 2-for-4. Sanciangco paced Saipan Fresh with his 30 points, while Pagarao and Estolas added 28 and 22, respectively.

Bonbon Cadagat top-scored for IT&E with 20 points, but missed a lot of long triples. Peter Mendiola managed to nail 17 markers, despite getting limited touches in the second half.

In the masters division, Jun Tabora fired 23 of his 33 points

See SAIPAN on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Fresh Market's Lerio Pagarao goes for a tough shot against the outstretched arms of IT&E's Peter Mendiola during their game in the PILCOWA caging on Thursday at the JP Centre Basketball Court.

## Jones leaves for New Zealand tourneys

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rafael Jones, seen here going for a forehand return from the baseline, left for New Zealand last night to compete in three tournaments.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior tennis player Rafael Jones left Saipan last night to compete in tournaments in New Zealand.

The Commonwealth bet is part of the Pacific Oceania Junior Touring team that will play in three tournaments in New Zealand. Jones will be participating in the U14 and U16 competitions in the 2009 Coca-Cola Waikato Junior Championships in Hamilton, 2009 Poverty Bay East Coast Ray White Junior Championship in Gisborne, and the 2008 Auckland Christmas Tournament.

These are the same tourna-

See JONES on Page 27

## Easy wins for Rollers II, Sixers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Life was easy for 670 Rollers II and the San Antonio Sixers, who cruised to separate lopsided wins in the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League on Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

670 Rollers II downed the Celtics in the second game, 55-28, while the Sixers clobbered Rollers I in the first match, 104-57.

670 Rollers II was ahead by only seven at halftime, 24-17, before Jason Palacios led the team's breakaway in the second half. Palacios drilled all his 14 points in the second half to lift 670 Rollers II to a 27-point win.

Juan Maratita also finished with 14 points, making six in the first half and adding eight more in the second half.

Tim Taguchi and Sean Sablan led Celtics' losing cause, tallying 10 points apiece. Taguchi had eight points in the first half, but was limited to a field goal in the second half, as 670 Rollers II more than doubled the Celtics' output in the last 20 minutes of the match. Sablan was the lone Celtics player to make more than a field goal in the sec-

See EASY on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Rollers I player tries to save the ball at the baseline during one of their games in the Rotary caging last month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Rollers I played against the Sixers on Thursday and lost.

## Koblerville aims for sweep in U12 league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The championship round in the 2009 NMIFA U12 Interscholastic Football League will be played today at the Hopwood Junior High School Field with Koblerville Elementary School hoping to sweep the boys and girls division finals.

Koblerville advanced to the finals in both the U12 girls and boys divisions after the single-round robin playoffs.

In the girls division, Koblerville had a 3-0 record to notch the first finals slot. Dandan Elementary School claimed the second finals seat after a runner-up finish in the playoffs. Saipan International School and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School ended up in third and fourth place, respectively, and will duel for the consolation trophy.

The SIS Geckos and GTC will play in the battle for third

See KOBLERVILLE on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Koblerville Elementary School goalie kicks the ball during their game against Saipan International School in the playoffs of the 2009 NMIFA U12 Interscholastic Football League at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.